FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB LEAGUE COMMISSION BEGINS WORK ON TUNISIAN-LIBYA DISPUTE

LD291510 Tunis TAP in English 1414 GMT 29 Feb 80 LD

["pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Feb 29 (TAP)--The members of the three-party-commission born of the Arab League special session left Tunis this morning for Tripoli as part of their mission between the Tunisian and Libyan governments.

Mr Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi foreign minister and member of this commission states that the latter will explain to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi the decisions taken by the league's council. "We will also have to explain the practical clauses included in these decisions, and we hope, he added, that they would be rigorously applied so as to favour the coming back to the normal of the relations between both countries and to put an end to the disputes which are presently opposing them.

"These decisions, Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi went on, also bear a force of a moral kind and we are convinced that the Arab countries grant a considerable interest to the Arab joint action and to the opinion which characterized this session. If ever and by any change we fail in this mission, the council will meet again and examine this issue. The council will then have all freedom to take all necessary measures with a view to putting an end to the dispute between the two countries. However, we deem that we have no reason to be pessimistic."

This commission is composed of the foreign ministers of Iraq, Syria and Kuwait and of Mr Mohamed Essid who represents the Arab League Secretary General.

It began Thursday its mission between the Tunisian and Libyan governments by holding a meeting with the Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. Following this audience, Mr Sa'dun Hammadi stated to the press:

The committee has just started the first part of its approach by meeting with the Tunisian president to whom we explained the decision and its terms and we reported what took place during the council works and the Arab countries' views." [quotation mark as received]

"Our meeting with President Bourguiba was very satisfactory. The president of the Tunisian Republic was hospitable and cordial and said he was delighted at the league's council decision. As to us, we are in the service of the Tunisian and Libyan governments to contribute to the normalization of relations between both countries. We hope that the Arab League's council decision will be implemented."

With this unanimously adopted resolution, the council worked out a compromise which, if respected on both sides, could be a good platform to get over the current difficulties and lay strong foundation for a normalization of relations between both countries.

As a matter of fact and as Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi point out, the compromise does not probably fully satisfy both sides but, it must be said to its credit, it leaves the door open to a better reconciliation.

The Tunisian press welcomed favourably the fact that the Arab League Council has reaffirmed without ambiguity its total attachment for the Arab League's charter notably as regards each state's inalienable right to sovereignty, to independence, to non-interference in its internal affairs and to the respect of its regime.

"We cannot but accept the decision taken unanimously by the Arab community" said Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri who also added that the normalization of Tunisian-Libyan relations "depends upon the sincereity of the other side."

The Arab League Council, said Mr Fitouri, has adopted a resolution providing for stages and recalling some principles. This recall is a recognition and a confirmation of the violation of these principles. Our first aim, Mr Fitouri went on was to make the Arab community aware of the transgression of the league's principles. "This resolution has a progressive nature and we will remain attached to the policy of stages pending to see the possibilities of implementing the resolution".

Peacekeeping Force Ruled Out

LD291138 Kuwait KUNA in English 1041 GMT 29 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Tunis, Feb 29, KUNA--Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad has ruled out any possibility of sending an Arab peacekeeping force to supervise the situation on the Tunisian-Libyan borders.

The borders became tense last month in the wake of an attack by armed elements against the Tunisian town of Qafsah in which 41 persons were killed and 100 wounded.

Shaykh as-Sabah announced following his meeting with the Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba that a committee formed by the Arab League Council will leave Tripoli Friday to convey to the Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi resolutions adopted by the council for settlement of the Libyan--Tunisian dispute.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed hope the committee would succeed in settling the differences between the two countries and stressed that Arab states must maintain unity and aim all weapons against their common enemy. He added that the Tunisian president had authorised the committee to apply whatever measures it believes proper to solve the dispute with Libya. The council resolutions and the committee task will be reviewed by the council meeting on March.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL ON FRENCH POSITION ON SELF-DETERMINATION

NC040755 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 4 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Brother Majid Abu Sharar, Palestinian information official and the Fatah movement Revolutionary Council secretary, has stated that the French position has for years distinguished itself from the U.S. position on a number of political issues, including the attitude to the Palestinian issue.

Brother Abu Sharar added: There is no doubt that this developed French position will have scope and influence if it can affect the overall position of Western Europe--and this is not the case at present. Concluding his statement, brother Abu Sharar said: While we appreciate this French position, we do not attach more significiance to it than it deserves on the level of world political action.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT ON CARTER MIDEAST STATEMENT

LD291627 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Feb 80 p 5 LD

["Irfan Nizam ad-Din article: "Carter's No's, Why?"]

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter has again reverted to the method of announcing one thing and then saying the opposite--something he has been persistently doing throughout his first presidential term which will end around the end of this year.

It is known that President Carter was the first American President to openly announce his support for the Palestinian people's right to a national homeland and to pledge negotiations with the PLO under certain conditions. This attitude, however, did not last long and began to gradually diminish. Yesterday he declared in front of the council of the Organization of Young American Jews that he opposed the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and would never negotiate with the PLO.

Strangely enough, this blunt declaration came at a time when there were increasing hopes that the United States might adopt a more understanding attitude to legitimate Arab demands, following the two lessons it learned in Iran and Afghanistan and which ought to have taught it how to protect its vital interests.

The declaration also came in the wake of definite information to the effect that President Carter's administration has urged Britain to embark on a new Middle East peace initiative to have UN Security Council Resolution 242 amended, by adding a clause related to the Palestinian issue and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This will eventually insure PLO recognition of the resolution and pave the way for it to participate in the peace efforts, now that it has gained the regognition of most of the states of the world.

The declaration also came amid official reports that the American Government has addressed a stern warning to Israel, saying that it will not allow Israel's pigheadedness to endanger American interests in the Middle East.

It is most likely that the warning was given in the light of the impending resumption of the autonomy negotiations between Egypt, Israel and the United States in The Hague. The deadline set for these negotiations, which have made no progress worth mentioning, expires after 3 months. In other words, the United States continues to insist on sticking in the bottleneck in which it put itself when it signed the two Camp David agreements and disregarded the stands of the Arab states and the Palestinian people--stands clearly manifested yesterday in the protest against the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel.

This [U.S.] stand is declared despite the fact that all the world has recognized that the autonomy talks have failed and will not solve the Palestinian issue or establish peace in the Middle East. This stand has left no room, however small, to turn back from the erroneous path.

Why did President Carter announce his No's in the present delicate circumstances. Some say that the President's statements these days are meant for local consumption because the presidential election is near, especially since he was speaking at a purely Jewish rally and not on an official occasion; at a time when his rival Edward Kennedy had concentrated his efforts on soliciting the votes of American Jews.

However, this justification is not likely to be believed unless President Carter readjusts the course of his policy, not by words but by deeds. To date, we have not witnessed a single deed conducive to hope or optimism.

VOP: 'ARAFAT HONORS RELEASED PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

NC291831 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 29 Feb 80 NC

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat at ceremony honoring "two liberated prisoners," William Nassar and Muhammad Mahdi Busaysu at Arab University of Beirut on 29 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers: [words indistinct] It is wholeheartedly that we celebrate with a simple ceremony the occasion of the release of two of our heroes. However, we must remember that there in the small prison, in the small prisons inside our occupied homeland and in the big prison which is our occoupied homeland, there are still heros and that our people are still under occupation.

This ceremony is only a symbolic celebration on the occasion of the release of these two heroes in order to honor their return to the positions of struggle, the positions of fighting and the positions of confrontation. I know and many know that our lions in the prisons inside our occupied homeland are fighting systematically; they are fighting by carrying out operations inside the occupied land. Many of the operations about which you hear in the occupied territories are organized and carried out by those heroes, whether they were the ones who have left prison or those who are still being held. This in itself has prompted many of the Zionist officials to admit that this prison poses a threat to them and that those prisoners and detainees pose a threat to them just as our people outside and inside the occupied territory pose a threat to them. As far as we are concerned, the prisons are revolutionary and organizational cells from which revolutionary rays are diffused--rays that confront, fight and organize whether in our occupied territory or outside. This is our true opinion of our lions inside the small or the big prison.

This occasion comes at a time when there is a capitulation in the area and at a time when Carter is trying to raise a din against this Arab area by saying no to the Palestinian state. I want to say that if Carter believes that the Palestinian state will come to us as a gift from him, we do not want it. We will wrest our democratic state; we will wrest our independent state with our blood. It is Palestinian-Lebanese blood that will decide the fate of the Palestinian state [applause] and not Carter or Carter's statements. I want to remind Carter that one day in the past Brzezinski had said: Farewell to the PLO. These statements were made after he had visited As-Sadat. Well, if the statements they make are destiny, I want to tell him; Where? what has actually taken place is that we have said farewell to his interests in the area. The first implementation of these words was carried out by our allies, the Iranian revolutionaries, when they kicked him out and kicked out [word indistinct drowned by applause]. Thus, farewell was not said to the PLO but to the U.S. interests in the area and the U.S. presence in Tehran and Iran.

If he wants me to count for him, the list will be long. No one can say no to the Palestinian state. The Palestinian state is the wish of the revolutionaries in the Palestinian revolution; it is the wish of the freemen in our Arab nation. The Palestinian state has been decided by the battles of the war of attrition in south Lebanon. The 8-day battle, the war of attrition continued for 8 months and is still continuing. Even last night there was shelling against our Lebanese villages and Palestirian camps in South Lebanon. It is this that will decide the fate of the Palestinian state. The fate of the Palestinian state will be decided by the 8-day war during which, for the first time in the Arab-Israeli confrontation, the Israeli enemy--all of you know the story--has asked for a cease-fire. It is this that will decide the Palestinian state. The Palestinian state will not be decided by a statement from Carter in which he is begging for Jewish votes in the United States. No, Carter, Begin and As-Sadat must know--as I and my brothers, the last of whom was my brother Yasir, in their speechs have said--
that the thing that will decide the Palestinian revolution is the cataract of Lebanese-Palestinian blood which has not stopped flowing for one second. This is the thing that will decide the Palestinian state, my brother. The thing that will decide the Palestinian state is the will of our Arab nation. Let those who are near and far hear my words. Absolutely no one can make the history of the area. The time has gone when anyone in the imperialist empire--whether it be in the stock market or in the markets of international monopolies--can decide the fate of our area. No one can decide the fate of our area except the hero, the holder of the rifle, except that hero in the Israeli prison. That is the stand that the Lebanese fighter is taking with his brother, the Palestinian fighter, amid this capitulation in our Arab area. It is this light that is represented by the Lebanese fighter with his brother, the Palestinian fighters. It is they who will be making the prestige for our Arab nation. Let those far and near understand these words. I do not want to say more than this, but I say to you: Welcome to you in the trenches of fighting, in the trenches of combat. Welcome to you side by side with our brothers in the National Front, in the National Movement. Let us make a new history for our nation. Let us make a new page for our nation. Let us say that this area will remain Arab. It is a revolution, a revolution until victory.

PLO's QADDUMI INTERVIEWED BY LUMEA MAGAZINE

AU282110 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 2000 GMT 28 Feb 80 AU

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 28/2/1980--Giving an interview in Beirut to the Bucharest weekly of foreign policy LUMEA, published in the issue of February 28, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, stressed that Romania, considering the PLO to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and granting sustained support to its just struggle for national liberation and independence, also acknowledges the inalienable objectives of the PLO that strives to attain the national independence of the Palestinian people. Setting out from common interests and aspirations, the relations of collaboration between our peoples witness continuous development, the interlocutor showed, mentioning that the fundamental factor of these relations is recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to attain its legitimate national aspirations, its right to self-determination included, by means of an independent Palestinian state.

Faruq Qaddumi considered that an important contribution to consolidating the relations of friendship and collaboration between the Romanian people and the Palestinian people was made by the meetings President Nicolae Ceausescu had with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the PLO Executive Committee, the last of them in August 1979.

VOP: ABU MAZIN RECEIVES SOVIET MUSLIM DELEGATION

NC291736 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 29 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Brother Abu Mazin, Member of the Fatah Central Committee and Chairman of the Palestinian-Soviet Friendship Committee, has received at the society's headquarters a delegation of the Soviet Muslim ulema led by Abd al-Gani Abdulla, chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

Abu Mazin outlined to the delegation that the existence of the society is proof of the friendship between the Palestinian people and the Soviet Union. He stressed the importance of Jerusalem to world Muslims and the need to utilize all efforts for its liberation to be the capital of Palestine and to continue to be the spiritual capital for all believers in the world as it was throughout the past ages.

PLO PARIS ENVOY TRANSFERRED TO TUNIS

LD031023 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Feb 80 p 10 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] It has been decided to transfer Ibrahim as-Sus, director of the PLO office in Paris, to Tunis as PLO representative to the Arab League.

It has been said that As-Sus' transfer is a reward for his efforts in serving the Palestinian cause in France. It has also been said that this transfer is a punishment for the "heavy legacy with which he has burdened the PLO office in Paris."

Irrespective of what is being said, the PLO has transferred the PLO representative in Brussels Na'im Khadr to Paris. Will Na'im Khadr face administrative problems at his new office or will things proceed normally?

BAHRAIN

FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM TUNIS

NC292155 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2110 GMT 29 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Manama, 29 February--Bahraini Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak returned to Manama tonight from Tunis after heading his country's delegation to the emergency conference of the Arab League Council which was held at the foreign ministers level on 27 and 28 February. Both Tunisia and Libya called for convening this conference to discuss their recent dispute.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY the Bahraini minister said the Arab League Council has reached an agreement to end the state of tension between Tunisia and Libya because such incidents have grave consequences on the Arab position and the overall Arab cause. He said the confereees tackled the problem with seriousness and responsibility and this has enabled them to reach resolutions that the two parties to the conflict agreed upon.

It has been learned that a committee composed of Kuwait, Syria, Iraq and the Arab League General Secretariat has been entrusted with following up the implementation of these resolutions. The Bahraini minister of foreign affairs expressed confidence that the committee will overcome the difficulties and restore fraternal relations between Tunisia and Libya. In conclusion the Bahraini minister of foreign affairs praised the positive atmosphere that prevailed during the meetings and the determination to take serious action to end any differences among Arab countries out of awareness of the gravity of the situation and of the colonialist schemes and ambitions, foremost of which are the world's Zionism's ambitions to which the Arab nation is being subjected.

FRENCH PRESIDENT RESUMES TALKS WITH AMIR

NC032004 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1920 GMT 3 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Manama, 3 March--The second round of official talks between the Bahraini side, under Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the French side, under President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, began this evening. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah and Heir Apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah. Both sides completed their discussions of the topics raised during the first round of talks held at noon today, including Bahraini-French relations, developments in the region and current international affairs.

A joint statement will be issued tomorrow, Tuesday, on the results of the Bahraini-French talks.

Explains Stand on Palestine

LD032104 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] French President Giscard d'Estaing has arrived in Bahrain. Addressing the small French community in Bahrain, Mr Giscard d'Estaing emphasized the political importance of his voyage. Everybody, of course, has in mind his plea for Palestinian self-determination. Here is what he said: [begin recording]

(?We are implementing) an independent policy which expresses the stance and judgment of France on contemporary world events; it is an independent policy. At the same time this policy tries to defend the just and open points of view. Just means we must seek just solutions everywhere where there are difficulties in the world; solutions which at the same time reflect the peoples' deepest aspirations. This is the traditional policy of France. If French policy did not endeavor to support just solutions and solutions of progress it would be in contradiction to our historic traditions. [end recording]

Joint Statement

NC040846 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Mar 80 NC

[Text of 4 March joint Bahraini-French statement on the visit of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing to Bahrain]

[Text] In response to an invitation from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, His Excellency President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France paid an official visit to Bahrain 3-4 March 1980. His excellency was accompanied by several senior French officials.

President Valery Giscard d'Estaing was welcomed on arrival by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain. The great guest and his delegation were accorded a warm welcome by the government and people of Bahrain, thus reflecting the existing firm cordial relations between the two countries and the joint will to further develop and deepen their cooperation in various fields.

The guest and his delegation toured several landmarks in Bahrain and expressed admiration for the achievements made by the government and people of Bahrain in implementing development programs.

Discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere marked by friendship and mutual understanding between President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. Several senior officials on both sides took part in the talks.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and current international questions of mutual interest, the foremost of which is the Middle East question, the Arab-European dialog and the situation in Afghanistan.

In the field of bilateral relations, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the relations of increasing friendship and cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the economic, technical and cultural fields in recent years. They welcomed the development of these relations by signing agreements between the two countries in the fields of electric energy, tourism and youth. They affirmed the importance of the continued functioning of the two countries' joint economic and technical committees.

They expressed hope that the current discussions will open new horizons for bilateral cooperation, particularly in the fields of petrochemicals, water desalination, aluminum and aviation.

His Excellency President Valery Giscard d'Estaing showed interest in regional cooperation projects in the area and expressed France's readiness to contribute to implementing these projects.

The two sides agreed to further deepen and develop bilateral cultural and educational relations.

Regarding the Middle East issue, the two sides expressed extreme concern over the situation in the area, which constitutes a hotbed of international tension and threatens the security and peace of the area and the entire world. The two sides affirmed the need to recognize the reality of the Palestinian problem as an issue of people and not a problem of refugees.

Each side outlined its declared position on a solution to the Middle East issue, and agreed that just and lasting peace demands in particular Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, within the framework of a comprehensive peace settlement.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the Gulf area and affirmed the need to keep this area secure and stable and away from big power rivalry and that the maintenance of security and stability in it is the responsibility of the region's states alone.

The two sides agreed that the Arab-European dialog provides a great opportunity for the achievement of joint benefits for the dialog partners, and stressed the need to resume this dialog as soon as possible.

They also expressed hope that a dialog will be established between the Gulf states and the EEC. The two sides exchanged views on the French proposal to start a tripartite dialog among the Arab, European and African states.

The two sides expressed profound concern over the threats facing some areas in the world. They expressed opposition to all kinds of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of states which are liable to jeopardize peace and security in the world. They expressed particular opposition to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, describing it as a flagrant intervention in the affairs of a UN member state. They affirmed that this intervention is a violation of the principles of international law and constitutes a danger to international peace and security. Therefore, they called for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

His Excellency President Valery Giscard d'Estaing expressed his thanks and appreciation for the profound welcome accorded to him and the accompanying delegation by the government and people of the State of Bahrain.

His Excellency President Valery Giscard d'Estaing extended an invitation to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, to pay an official visit to France, and his highness accepted the invitation with thanks. The date of the visit will be decided later.

KUWAIT

TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON GISCARD VISIT REPORTED

LD031212 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In the name of God most merciful and most compassionate, a joint communique on the visit of his excellency the French president to Kuwait has been issued.

In reply to an invitation by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, His Excellency President Valery Giscard d'Estaing paid an official visit to Kuwait for 1-3 March 1980. The honored guest and accompanying delegation were received with a profound welcome expressing the good relations and firm cooperation linking the two countries. His excellency the president of the French Republic once again expressed the sentiments of deep friendship which his excellency and the French people hold for his highness the amir and the people of Kuwait.

His excellency the president of the French Republic and his highness, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, accompanied by officials from both sides, held official talks in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual respect. The two leaders exchanged views on existing relations between the two friendly countries and on major world issues of mutual concern.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the positive development of bilateral relations between the two countries. They stressed their determination to bolster and develop means of cooperation between the two countries in various fields. The leaders of the two countries noted with satisfaction the rapid development of economic relations between France and Kuwait. They expressed their determination to expand economic cooperation between the two countries. They expressed their pleasure at the signing of exchange letters during the visit of the president of the French Republic regarding cooperation in the sphere of hydrocarbons and petrochemicals and stressed the importance of cooperation in the spheres of aviation and mineral resources.

They decided that the French-Kuwaiti joint committee should in future meet annually at ministerial level and to hold its next meeting in Paris within 2 months. The two sides agreed to deepen the exchange of knowledge about the two civilizations and cultures and to develop cooperation in the cultural spheres.

His excellency the French president and his highness the amir of Kuwait also reviewed the current international situation. They noted with satisfaction the identity of their two countries' views in regard to the principles which should govern international relations, particularly those provided for in the UN Charter. The two leaders stressed their conviction of the need for basing relations among states on mutual respect, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries and cooperation in bolstering and maintaining world peace and security in a spirit of constructive dialog and consultation.

The two leaders expressed their profound concern over the dangers threatening stability in some parts of the world. They also reaffirmed their rejection of all types of foreign interventions which might endanger world peace and security. The attention of the two leaders was particularly drawn to the situation resulting from the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. They consider such a intervention unacceptable as it violates of international law and contend that Soviet forces must withdraw so the Muslim Afghan people can exercise their right to self-determination.

The two sides discussed all aspects of the situation in the Middle East and paid special attention to the development of the Palestine question and its repercussions for the region.

They agreed that the dangerous and crucial situation in the region constitutes a threat to world peace and security. Each of the two leaders expounded his country's views and declared position with regard to the Middle East question. They agreed that the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region essentially necessitates Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestine people. They expressed their conviction that the Palestine question is not one of the refugees but of a people and as such they have the right to self-determination within the framework of a just and durable peace.

The situation in the Gulf region was discussed and the two sides expressed satisfaction at the positive developments taking place in the region toward greater cooperation and understanding among the region's countries. The two countries' agreed on the need to maintain the Gulf region outside international conflicts. They also agreed the maintenance of security and stability of the region was the responsibility of the region's states without outside intervention.

The two leaders discuss the situation in Lebanon and expressed anxiety at the tension which prevailed and also their support for the sovereignty, unity and independence of Lebanon, the two sides stressed their support for making the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean two regions of peace and stability. The two sides paid attention to strengthening relations between the two groups to which Kuwait and France were members. They noted that Arab-European dialog benefitted relations between the countries of the European Economic Community [EEC] and the Arab countries and such dialog should be maintained.

They also stressed the importance they gave to holding a dialog between the countries of the Arabian Gulf and the EEC in conditions insuring their success. From this concept viewpoints were exchanged on the French proposal to establish a dialog among the Arab, European and African countries.

The two sides stressed the importance of establishing a new international economic system they also pointed out that the solution of international economic problems should take place with the participation of all countries, taking into consideration the principle of solidarity among various countries and interdependence of their economies. They underlined the importance of every country maintaining sovereignty over its natural resources.

The two sides expressed profound satisfaction with the positive results of this visit. They stressed the need to continue consultation and exchange of visits at various levels between the two friendly countries.

His excellency the president of the French Republic expressed his deep appreciation for the profound welcome accorded him and the accompanying delegation by the people and Government of Kuwait. His excellency extended an invitation to his highness the amir of Kuwait to visit France. His highness accepted the invitation with gratitude. The date of the visit will be arranged.

PDRY

ISMA'IL DISCUSSES SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

LD291621 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 27 Feb 80 pp 10, 11 LD

[Interview granted by PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il to Mustafah Abu Libdah in Aden--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Do you feel that you are threatened here in Yemen? In recent weeks you have had high-level contacts with delegations from Arab (the Lebanese, Syrian and Iraqi) communist parties and also with Palestinian organizations and Arab nationalist forces. This has given the impression that you are seeking a formula or a framework for collective action in the area in order to confront dangers which have not been quite clear.

Answer: In fact we cannot and we should not feel easy about the security and sovereignty of the PDRY, especially since world imperialism, headed by the United States, recently showed its aggressive intentions toward the area and the sovereignty of its states. It moved its warships and marine forces to the Arabian Sea and at the same time has been preparing so-called "quick deployment forces." What does this indicate? Does it not indicate that danger is looming on the horizon for the countries of the area, which makes it incumbent upon every country to be alert and collectively ready to confront this U.S. imperialist danger? A potential danger to the PDRY remains a possibility in this case in view of the aggressive nature of this imperialism and its threat to developing countries which have chosen the path of independent development.

With regard to the meetings that have taken place with the leaders of Arab communist parties, Arab progressive forces and Palestinian organizations, they came within the framework of the exchange of party expertise and the strengthening of militant ties between the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the Arab progressive and democratic parties. This, of course, is consistent with the recommendations and resolutions of our first congress, which charged our party's Central Committee with actively participating in the cohesion of the Arab liberation movement and its current struggle against the plans of world imperialism and Zionist occupation. We believe that those who depict this action as a collective framework are seeking to distort the policy of Democratic Yemen and misinterpret it completely. It is as if they want to say that the PDRY is seeking to establish collective action with the participation of certain parties and to the exclusion of others. They use this allegation to justify their unjust campaign against this country and to instigate others to join this campaign. We in the PDRY are not against any collective action in the area to confront the dangers which have been identified and which have become known to all. But such collective action requires first of all the identification of the enemy and the countries against which this enemy's stick is being brandished. It also requires the definition of who are the friends of the peoples of the area who support sovereignty, independence and social development. In this regard we support any efforts leading to a formula of collective action to confront the dangers menacing the countries of the area. It is essential that all the nationalist and liberation forces in every country should close their ranks within a united front undertaking the defense of sovereignty and independence. At the level of all the countries of the area political, official and popular forces must join hands in order to check the advance of these dangers toward the area.

The PDRY, as one of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, will not hesitate to participate in collective action with the rest of the countries of the area in defense of sovereignty and independence and of every country's right to choose its own path of development. We fully respect and appreciate all the countries that have condemned U.S. imperialism and its policy aimed at interfering in the internal affairs of the countries of the area.

Question: Have any secret meetings been held with delegations representing leftist or nationalist fronts and parties in the Gulf countries? According to reports, a meeting of these organizations will be held before April.

Answer: We would like to make it clear that our party has party and militant relations with the Iraqi Communist Party and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. Apart from these two countries, the PDRY has not received delegations representing leftist parties and fronts in the Gulf countries. What is being said about a meeting to be held by these organizations is not true. Those who spread such rumors want to undermine the good relations between the PDRY and the Gulf countries.

Question: Despite all your efforts to reassure the area--the most recent being your deputy foreign minister's tour of the Gulf states--the name of Democratic Yemen continues to be synonymous with a feeling of suspicion about your intention. It is no secret that the prevailing impression is that you are the ones who have brought the Soviets close to the approaches to the oil of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. Is this due to your failure to clarify the picture and the reality of the treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union? Or are the others naturally disposed toward this kind of general impression about you, thus maintaining the barriers between you and them? Successive Arab and Western reports speak of Soviet naval and nuclear bases being established in Democratic Yemen, of Soviet naval concentrations in your territorial waters to face the American naval concentrations and of Soviet reconnaissance planes flying in your airspace. Can you provide a definite clarification of the nature and magnitude of the Soviet, East German and Cuban aid to you so that we may (?answer) the rumors and the press reports designed to justify the intensification of the U.S. presence in the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea? Reports speaking of an Afghan-Democratic Yemen-Ethiopian axis are not new to you. They say that this axis is used by the Soviets to face the multiform American axis. They have gone so far as to speak about a South Yemeni military presence in Afghanistan and cooperation with Ethiopia in this respect.

Answer: What precisely are we required to do to eliminate the feeling of suspicion others have regarding our intentions and to remove the misunderstanding between Democratic Yemen and the feeling the others have? Let us speak frankly and clearly: We in Democratic Yemen have no aggressive intentions to hide from others, intentions which others have--those who seek to injure our national sovereignty and turn the area into a satellite of American imperialism. We have clearly explained our intentions in party and state documents and we have put our policy into practice without fraud or hypocricy in our relations with the countries in the area. We reaffirm that we in Democratic Yemen are serious in our intentions and wish others to reciprocate with similar intentions. Our policy line is peaceful coexistence among the area's states. This means mutual respect for national sovereignty, nonaggression and noninterference in the internal affairs of any country, work to establish relations of cooperation for the benefit of the people and the stability of the area and respect for the right of every country to choose its own independent political and economic development. It is necessary to point out that the relations among the area's states must be on an equal footing, with no side exercising pressure or tutelage or making a decision which the others must obey and implement or else be punished.

There are those who are casting doubt on our intentions but they do not admit the hostile intentions they harbor toward Democratic Yemen. Their propaganda trumpets say: You have brought the Soviets close to the approaches to the oil in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. Is this not a lie, a falsification of the existing facts and an attempt to distort the policy of Democratic Yemen and to fan the flames of enmity toward the Soviet Union, which has supported the Arabs and their historic causes? They know before anyone else that American imperialism is the one that is standing close to the approaches to the oil in the area with its ships and naval forces. It has announced this without any consideration for the area's states and their sovereign rights. It is American imperialism which is standing close to the approaches to the oil with its tens of thousands of military experts spread all over. There is no need to name the areas. They are aware that the area's oil is flowing to the United States and the rest of the capitalist Western countries. It thus becomes clear that it is the Americans, not the Soviets, who are standing close to the approaches to the oilfields, ready to intervene by force to insure the flow of the area's oil to America and its North Atlantic allies. Their claims that the Soviet Union has designs with regard to the area's oil in the coming years are the card which American imperialism is playing in order to continue to loot the oil resources and exploit oil royalties. It is playing this card under the pretext of hostility to communism and the Soviet Union and its alleged ambitions in the area's oil countries. It is known that the Soviet Union is considered one of the biggest oil producers in the world and its economy does not need the area's oil.

Nobody can blame us for things that have nothing to do with the truth and reality. Indeed blame must be put on those who reverse facts and claim that the Soviets are on the approaches to the oil fields while they themselves are playing hosts to the Americans on these approaches, as is the case with the Omani regime. The reports about the existence of Soviet naval and nuclear bases, reconnaissance planes and naval concentrations in PDRY waters as well as the unjust propaganda campaign by the hostile media about the PDRY becoming a Soviet base are all fundamentally false. As we have already said, all this is aimed at paving the way for the United States to strengthen its military presence and include the area in its direct sphere of influence because of U.S. oil interests. Has not the United States frankly declared through the head of its administration that the Gulf area falls within the spheres of its vital interests despite the thousands of miles between them?

The PDRY is free of the Soviet bases whose existence they allege. If these people use the treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union as an excuse to level false charges against the PDRY, we would like to make it clear that the PDRY is neither the first nor the last Arab or foreign country to conclude such a treaty. The northern part of our country signed a similar treaty in 1928 and so did Egypt in 1971. Iraq, Somalia and India also signed such treaties. Moreover, we did not sign the treaty secretly or in the dark but indeed in front of everybody's eyes.

It is not directed against a third party and we do not intend to use the treaty as an instrument of threats or aggression against any country or regime. All we want is for others to leave us alone and not violate the sovereignty and independence of our country. We are confident that when the spirit of mutual respect, trust and peaceful coexistence prevails in relations between the countries of the area, the others will come to realize that the treaty is a symbol of friendship between peoples. It is necessary that they should remove from their minds suspicions toward PDRY intentions. Criticism must be directed against those who have close friendly relations with the United States and who boast about this friendship at a time when they know the depth of the friendship linking the United States with Israel.

We in the PDRY have nothing to hide. We are linked to the Soviet Union by friendly relations based on equality and mutual respect. We are proud of this friendship for reasons that we do not conceal. The Soviet Union has given us military aid since the dawn of independence. Other socialist countries such as the GDR and Cuba have also given us such aid. If the military aid given to our people in order to defend their national sovereignty has become a sensational matter for the press and an excuse to justify expanding the U.S. presence in the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea then this is really deplorable and shows that the authors of such reports are enlisted in the service of U.S. policy. There are countries which are bigger and more populated than ours which have arms more than we have and in excess of what they need. These countries conclude big deals with the United States and some of them give military facilities to the United States and make their territories available for the building of military bases. This is also being done as part of expanding the U.S. influence under stereotyped slogans such as resisting Soviet infiltration. What is being said about the arming of the PDRY is ridiculous. It is our country's right to boost its defense capabilities in order to be able to protect its independence and the gains of its revolution. This is our right and it is symbolized in the military establishments which have been developed and supplied with modern weapons in order to defend the nation and the revolution.

This is the purpose of the military aid which the Soviet Union has given to our country. As for the rumors and press reports about the existence of Soviet military bases, the formation of an Afghan-PDRY-Ethiopian axis, and our country having a military presence in Afghanistan--the only possible point of this is sensationalism for the readers. At the same time it is intended to provide justification for hostile forces to conspire against the PDRY and continue the campaigns against its independence and sovereignty and to provide justification for the United States to interfere in the internal affairs of the area.

It is quite clear that the United States is conspiring to contain the area through intervention by force of arms. It has conspired to strike at the revolution in Afghanistan. But now the United States and its agents are crying over their misfortune in Afghanistan. It has now become a state that cares for Islam and the Muslims.

In fact we have no soldiers fighting in Afghanistan but we support the Afghan people's revolution under the People's Democratic Party's leadership and the international aid which the Soviet Union has given the Afghan people to defend their revolution and the inviolability of their territories against invasion organized by forces of counterrevolution with the support and encouragement of the United States. It would be far from loyalty to the values of freedom, independence and revolution to give the United States a free hand to tamper with the sovereignty and dignity of peoples without being hit with the force of revolutionaries and all freedom and peace-loving peoples. With regard to the sovereignty and independence of the peoples of the area we in the PDRY stand in the same trench with these peoples and we will work together with all the regimes to resist the U.S. policy against sovereignty and independence and to protect national wealth.

Once again I say that we in the PDRY are not responsible for the others' suspicions of our intentions. We have no aggressive intentions against anybody.

Our minds are open to the development of relations with the countries of the area on the basis we have just mentioned. As for those who want to stick to preconceived ideas and to wrong impressions and intend to isolate the PDRY behind walls they will not be able to do so because the PDRY has a firm position and friends who give it support and backing in times of difficulty. This would not serve the interests of the area, its stability and cooperation between its countries.

Question: Are arrangements being made for your visit to Saudi Arabia? Talk about this visit started during your visit to Moscow during the signing of the friendship treaty and then died down. It has been said several times that arrangements for the visit are still being made. It has been said that diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia have been somewhat tense recently, leading to the withdrawal of the charges d'affaires in Jidda and Aden.

Answer: In fact the visit to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom was scheduled to take place early last year at the invitation of King Khalid,but because of certain circumstances the Saudis postponed it. The Saudis then renewed the invitation and we showed readiness to accept it. We waited but again they postponed it. The visit depends on Saudi Arabia and the people who extended the invitation. Obviously there is lukewarmness but not tension in the relations with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. We, for our part, are making efforts to insure that relations between our countries are normal and based on good will, dialog, respect and cooperation of benefit to the two peoples. We believe that there is nothing to prevent this. When the Saudis make arrangements for the visit it will be a good opportunity to discuss the development of relations. As for the withdrawal of the charges d'affaires from Aden and Jidda, it has nothing to do with bilateral relations between the two countries. It falls within the right of every country to change its diplomatic staff abroad.

Question: According to arrangements worked out over the past few months there was supposed to be a meeting at the foreign minister level between the PDRY and the Sultanate of Oman in the capital of the mediating country, be it Kuwait or San'a'. The PDRY has shown an encouraging response in this direction. How far have contacts and efforts in this regard gone?

Answer: In fact efforts have been made to hold meetings between the PDRY and the Sultanate of Oman at the official level. We have no objection to conducting a dialog between the two countries to discuss the question of relations between us.

Question: There are certain problems between the PDRY and Iraq. Some of these problems have been reflected in tension in relations while others have found expression in a different, indirect way. What are the reasons for these political differences and are any Arab sides mediating between you?

Answer: Problems have indeed occurred between our country and Iraq and relations between us and the Iraqi Government became tense following the assassination of Dr Tawfiq Rushdi, member of the Iraqi Communist Party, by Iraqi intelligence men. We took legal measures against the perpetrators, who were brought to trial on the charge of violating the security of the country. Certain Arab brothers sought to mediate and we responded to their initiative out of our desire to maintain Arab solidarity and avoid secondary disagreements and disputes between the Arab countries.

But there is still some noticeable tension in relations with sisterly Iraq, which we hope will be overcome so that an opportunity will be provided for the development of relations in the interest of both peoples and the struggle of the Arab nation.

Question: In the PDRY you have tried to build bridges with the Iranian Revolution. How far have your efforts gone in this regard and why do you think they have not yet had the desired effect? Have you proposed to Iran that it supply the Aden refinery with crude oil for refining?

Answer: It is true that we have tried and are still trying to build bridges with the Iranian Revolution. We have held contacts for this purpose which resulted in common desire to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries with the aim of building such bridges. But the imperialist conspiracies against the Iran Revolution and the Iranian revolutionary leaders' preoccupation with dealing with the results of these conspiracies have recently hindered such efforts. A personal envoy has now gone to Tehran carrying a personal message from me to the Iranian Islamic Republic President Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr concerning relations between our countries. We believe that building bridges with the Iranian people's Revolution serves the interests of our peoples and their struggle against imperialism and its aggressive plans. Although no official diplomatic relations have yet been established we side with the Iranian people in the struggle to protect their revolution against U.S. threats.

We have not proposed to Iran that it help to supply the Aden refinery with crude oil for refining and marketing, but we are ready to accept such an offer from Iran or from any oil country because, as is well known, the refinery has a large capacity and is one of the biggest oil installations in the area.

Question: One of the common views now held in the area is that if the Arab oil countries had given the PDRY sufficient aid Aden would not have concluded a friendship treaty with the Soviets and would not have been compelled to become so inclined to the Marxist-Leninist line. While this view implicitly recognizes the failure of the countries of the area in general in giving you aid it suggests that both sides--you and the rest of the countries of the area--should meet half way. How logical and correct is this view and how far is it applicable?

Answer: This is a wrong view. In our view the matter should not be looked upon this way. We did not sign a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union or choose the path of scientific socialism because the Arab oil countries did not give the PDRY sufficient aid. We signed the treaty because it agrees with the nature of the development of friendship between our people and the Soviet people, which has reached a high level.

We must recognize that the Soviet Union has proved during the battles which the Arabs have fought that it is a friend in time of difficulties. The Soviet Union sided with our people in the just struggle to defend national sovereignty and the revolutionary changes. It gave us aid to develop our economy. Therefore, the signing of the treaty of friendship becomes compatible with the logic of things.

When we chose the theory of scientific socialism as a guide for our struggle for changing our difficult and extremely backward social conditions we did so out of total conviction because the path of capitalism leads to miseries and social injustice and to hitching the country to the bandwagon of imperialism and neocolonialism.

In our ideological stand and our stand toward friendship with the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union we absolutely do not compromise because we look upon this friendship from a strategic standpoint within the conflict between the socialist system and the imperialist system. By saying this we are not imposing the principles of our ideology nor are we asking anybody to pursue our path.

But nobody should ask us to pursue the path leading to the United States. Everybody must realize that every country has the right to choose the path of its free development and to pursue the policy of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and mutual cooperation.

We have not been deficient in our relations with the Arab oil countries, particularly the countries of the area. We have extended our hand in order to improve and develop relations and to contribute to the stability of the area. We have done this during the difficult conditions which our people have experienced. But instead of understanding our position and recognizing our people's right to have their share of the Arab peoples' wealth in order to develop their economy and living standard, they accused us of apostasy and of defecting from the magnanimous Islamic religion and Arabism. They used pressures and conspiracies against us. They wanted us to sell our sovereignty and the principles of revolution in return for tempting offers. We stood fast on this path thanks to the will of our people and their great sacrifices. We did not give in despite the conspiracies that were hatched and the halting of aid. We will not give in in the future even if the conspiracies and the stoppage of aid continues.

Our hand is still extended to all the parties in order to develop relations between the PDRY and these parties. We are prepared to go more than half way, for it is not in the interest of our peoples and our historic Arab causes that we should become estranged, that differences should become deeper or that we should remain at the half way point. But with regard to ideology and principles we are not prepared to go half way, as the offer of the parties concerned suggests.

QATAR

GOVERNMENT RELEASES PRESS STATEMENT ON PRINCE HASAN VISIT

NC021841 Doha QNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 2 Mar 80 NC

["Text" of 2 March press statement on Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan's 29 Feb-2 Mar visit to Qatar]

[Excerpts] Doha, 2 March--At the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister of the State of Qatar, His Royal Highness Prince Hasan ibn Talal, crown prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, paid an official visit to the State of Qatar from 29 February to 2 March 1980.

In an atmosphere of true fraternity and friendship the two sides held official talks. The Qatari side was headed by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani and the Jordanian side was headed by his highness Prince Hasan ibn Talal.

The two sides discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and reviewed important Arab and international issues.

On bilateral relations the two sides expressed full satisfaction with the steady progress in the fraternal relations between the two countries geared to serve the mutual interests of the two states and peoples. They voiced their determination to further strengthen these relations and enhance cooperation in all fields.

On Arab and international issues, the views of the two countries on the topics discussed were identical, especially regarding the latest developments in the area, the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the repressive settlement measures taken by the Zionist enemy in implementation of his expansionist policy. In this respect, the two sides reaffirmed the position of their two countries that the resolutions of the Baghdad and Tunis conferences must be implemented fully in order to cement solidarity among the fraternal Arab states because this solidarity is the best Arab weapon against the challenges facing the Arabs and the best means of warding off the grave dangers threatening them.

The guest, Crown Prince Hasan, addressed an invitation to his brother the heir apparent of the State of Qatar to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The latter accepted the invitation gratefully and promised to make the visit as soon as possible.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER URGES GULF SOLIDARITY, SELF-RELIANCE

LD021016 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 2 March--Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has stated that the recent events in Afghanistan have affirmed the need for the Gulf countries to rely on themselves for the protection of their independence and wealth. The Soviet armed invasion of Afghanistan, he added, has clearly shown that the USSR has decided to push the world back to the era of direct colonization and armed invasion.

In an interview with the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH, published here today, Prince Sa'ud called on the friendly countries to give the Gulf countries the opportunity to obtain the arms they need to defend themselves.

The principle of self-reliance, he added, will bring stability to the area and keep it out of the sphere of conflict between the two superpowers, thus doing away with any need for foreign protection. He added that contacts were continuing among the Gulf countries within the framework of coordination and consultation for safeguarding their interests and achieving the ambitions of their peoples and objectives. Should the need arise, he said, there is nothing to prevent a foreign ministers' conference of the area countries from being held.

On the question of Soviet treaties of friendship, Prince Sa'ud said that the events in Afghanistan have shown the nature of these treaties and the threat they pose to the independence and freedom of peoples.

Prince Sa'ud affirmed that the kingdom always seeks to keep the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East out of the spheres of international conflicts.

Replying to a question on military bases, he said that the kingdom's policy and position in this regard were clear and that no U.S. official had raised this matter with the Saudi Government.

Replying to a question on what positive alternative there could be for the Arab cause, Prince Sa'ud said that the true alternative for the Arab world was that the Arab states should affirm their solidarity, strengthen their ranks, rely on themselves, rise above their differences and unite objectively and sincerely in working for the good of their cause, using all positive available means.

On Saudi-Iranian relations, the prince said that relations between the two countries have been and continue to be good. He expressed his hope for bolstering and developing Saudi-Iranian relations. He added that this was a matter dictated by the two countries' common destiny and Islamic faith. The prince said that he was looking forward to visiting Iran and exchanging views on all matters of interest to both countries.

On the question of the situation in Lebanon, Prince Sa'ud expressed his hope that the Lebanese will succeed in achieving unity for their own good and that of the whole Arab nation.

SHAYKH YAMANI DISCUSSES GULF SECURITY PROBLEMS

NC031405 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 3 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Paris, March 3 (AFP)--Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani said today he did not expect a conflict in the Gulf region and believed that "for the moment" the security of oil tankers there is assured.

Shaykh Yamani, speaking in a French television interview, added that he could not imagine a conflict between the powers maintaining naval patrol in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean, "for that would be the third world war."

He said that the various states of the region would guarantee the security of tankers, but without the support of international powers.

"We do not want that kind of guarantee. We want to keep the big powers out of this region, and I think that is best for everyone," the oil minister said.

Shaykh Yamani also said he did not consider the Arab oil region to be threatened by the Iranian Revolution "because what happened in Iran is an internal change and is not aimed against the region."

On the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, he said the main reason was "the oil fields and their future oil needs."

He said the Russians "want to establish the ruble as the currency for their oil if they can, but if they succeed it will be a different story for Western civilisation."

GUINEAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR PILGRIMAGE

LD011440 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1210 GMT 1 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Jidda--President Sekou Toure of Guinea arrived in Jidda at noon today on a private visit, during which he will undertake the minor pilgrimage. He was welcomed by Deputy Governor of Mecca District Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, the chief of protocol, and the Guinean ambassador.

GHALI ON AUTONOMY TALKS, EUROPEAN ROLE, FRENCH POSITION

Discontinue Talks After 26 May

NC032145 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Mar 80 NC

[Text] This evening, the People's Assembly foreign relations and Arab and national security affairs committees held a joint meeting at the People's Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din. Minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, attended the meeting, which reviewed the latest developments in the autonomy negotiations recently held in The Hague. At the meeting, Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that Egypt would not continue the Palestinian autonomy negotiations with Israel after 26 May. His excellency stressed that Egypt was fully committed to finding a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue and that its current efforts in various international circles and at the autonomy negotiations were primarily aimed at securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

He pointed out that Egypt would resort to other alternatives to solve the issue if the autonomy negotiations ended without achieving the required progress. His Excellency explained that these altenative would be within the UN framework or through international conferences.

He pointed out that the recent autonomy negotiations in The Hague had achieved some progress: The Egyptian, U.S. and Israeli delegations had agreed to form two sub-committees, one legislative and the other economic, to discuss questions on the judicial and economic aspects of the autonomy negotiations.

LE FIGARO Interview

LD291543 Paris LE FIGARO in French 27 Feb 80 p 6 LD

[Philippe de Bausset report: "We Must Have Results Before 26 May, Butrus Ghali Tells Us"]

[Excerpt] [Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs] Butrus Ghali told LE FIGARO yesterday that he hopes The Hague negotiations will produce positive results, if not immediately then at least before 26 May which is the latest it can do so. This date is indeed the final date set for negotiations on Palestinian autonomy which began 26 May last year.

"If we continue to negotiate after that date without any progress being made," Mr Ghali said, "we will lose our credibility. We must, therefore, obtain specific results before 26 May--results which are sufficiently striking to Arab and Palestinian public opinion in order to prompt a change in their attitude and leading the PLO or Jordan, for instance, to state officially that in these circumstances they authorize the populations of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to take part in elections on autonomy."

Indeed the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs repeated that the Palestinians' legitimate right to self-determination is embodied in the Camp David agreements and that Egypt's role as a catalyst lies in helping to assert this. He said he hopes in particular that King Husayn of Jordan, who is shortly due to meet with Mr Giscard d'Estaing in Amman, will agree to join the negotiations as stipulated in the Camp David agreements: "However, if that is to happen," he added, "we must obtain results before the end of May."

He explained that hitherto Egypt's attitude had been to respect the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and the Camp David agreements to the letter in order to create a climate of confidence between Jerusalem and Cairo and to prove to Israeli leaders and public that their fears about Israel's future are unfounded.

"However," he added, "how can the Palestinians and Jordanians be expected to do anything at present given the minimal results we have so far obtained on the autonomy problem. Therefore something major must happen soon if the situation is to change. Otherwise," Mr Ghali said, "Egypt will be forced to submit the affair to the UN Security Council or call for a vote on a new Resolution 242."

Calls for European Support

NC031229 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 3 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 March--Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, has once again called on the European states to assume their responsibility toward the Middle East question. He said that they must carry out a special role to affirm the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to eliminate Israeli fears and endeavor to ease the Arab conflicts.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that Europe is interested in the dialog between the East and West not only in the economic field but also in the political field, particularly on the Middle East question which Europe must study more deeply in order to assume the required role.

Dr Ghali emphasized Egypt's Arab and African affiliation and said that Egypt is eager to strengthen its African affiliation. In this connection, he called for consolidating Arab-African cooperation through continuous and positive dialog.

Dr Ghali made these statements in an interview published in the Cairo French language newspaper PROGRES today. Dr Ghali said that since the Havana nonalined conference in September, some communist states, which claim to be affiliated to the movement, have been attempting to contain the movement so that it would proceed according to their objectives.

In this connection, Dr Ghali called on the member states which laid down the nonalined movement's principles in Belgrade in 1961 to adhere to these principles, which are based on accord and dialog, not on domination and confrontation.

Praises French Stand

NC031454 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 3 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo March 3, (AFP)--Egyptian foreign minister, Butrus Ghali, said today that France's recognition of a Palestinian right of self-determination was a "positive step".

Mr Ghali said that the French position, outlined in a communique published at the end of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Kuwait yesterday, "strengthened Egypt's demands for the Palestinian people to be given the right of self-determination." The foreign minister added that the current negotiations between the United States, Egypt and Israel on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza were aimed precisely at achieving the goal of self-determination. "Any help for the Palestinian people is a help to Egypt's diplomatic activity," Mr Ghali added.

KHALIL PRAISES FRENCH-KUWAITI COMMUNIQUE ON PALESTINIANS

NC031232 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 3 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Paris, March 3 (AFP)--Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil today described as "very important" the mention of a Palestinian right to self-determination in today's joint France-Kuwaiti statement issued at the end of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's visit to the Gulf state.

Mr Khalil, asked after a meeting here with French Prime Minister Raymond Barre what he believed the French president meant by "self-determination", replied it was "very difficult" to speak of the concept, which he said "demanded realisation".

Addresses Autonomy Issue

NC031616 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Dr Mustafa Khalil explained to the French prime minister [in Paris today] Egypt's view on the Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. autonomy negotiations. He said that he fully explained Egypt's view on the Middle East and the situation in the Arab Gulf, that he submitted a full appraisal of the political situation, and that he discussed future relations between Egypt and France in all fields.

Answering a question on the stagnation in Egyptian-Arab relations, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that it was not Egypt that had started the bad relations with the Arab world. The Egyptian prime minister expressed his belief that if the Arab states attempted to correctly interpret the Camp David accords, there would be no differences between Egypt and these states. Dr Mustafa Khalil said that Egypt welcomed any initiative that could contribute to a settlement of the Middle East problem.

Asked about the possibility of convening a summit conference among Presidents as-Sadat and Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Khalil said that such a summit meeting could not be held before the conclusion of the negotiations so that the main points of disagreement among the delegations would be crystalized.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI ON SUMMIT MEETING, NORMALIZATION, U.S. ARMS

NC020907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 2 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 March--Egyptian defense minister, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, has stated that a tripartite summit meeting among President Anwar as-Sadat, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin is expected to be held during April if the autonomy discussions during March do not achieve progress, particularly in connection with the Palestinian legislative, legal and executive powers.

In a statement published by the weekly AS-SIYASI today, the Egyptian defense minister adds that he expects the new summit conference to give new momentum to the peace strides because their success would encourage other Arab parties to participate in the talks.

Addresses Pilot Graduation Ceremony

NC022019 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 March--Egyptian minister of defense and war production, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, has announced that the peace process has proved to be "the practical policy" which has resolved all the problems in Egypt, as well as the Palestinian problem. He added that Egypt has been working singlehandedly on this problem for 31 years, through both war and peace.

General 'Ali affirmed that so far the peaceful solution has been leading toward full autonomy. He also emphasized that Jerusalem is Arab and that it will not be forsaken. Furthermore, Jerusalem is Egypt's number one concern in the negotiations.

In the speech which he made today at a ceremony at the graduation of Egyptian fighter pilots, the Egyptian defense minister disclosed that efforts are now being exerted in Israel to resolve the problem of autonomy rapidly on a basis agreeable to Egypt, the Palestinians and Jordan.

He noted that as the result of the steps which Egypt has taken toward peace and the normalization of relations, Israel has begun to release Arab prisoners from Israeli prisons. Furthermore, he pointed out, numerous rights have been restored to the residents of Gaza and to the families which were expelled after 1967.

With regard to the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that, in its relations with Egypt, Israel will be treated exactly the same as any other state. He said that the committees on normalization are working within the framework of the laws in force between the two countries, adding that there are agreements on civil aviation, trade and culture. He said that these will be submitted to the People's Assembly and only what is endorsed by the Assembly would be implemented.

Concerning the status of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali announced that during the next phase, numerous tasks are in store for the air force. He said: "It is for this reason that the armed forces General Command has planned to reinforce the air force with the sophisticated American F-16 planes. Furthermore, the air force will receive almost half of the second American loan to Egypt."

The defense minister emphasized that the armed forces stand prepared to receive, absorb and use the sophisticated American planes as soon as the men and equipment can be prepared.

The defense minister said that while the first U.S. loan to Egypt included the F-4 planes, the second loan included tanks for the first time, in addition to the F-16 planes. He added that the second loan also included armored cars and other types of weapons which add to the combat capabilities and mobility of the armed forces. These other types of weapons including engineering equipment, signals equipment, reconnaissance equipment and other equipment that will make the [different units of the] armed forces complementary and provide what is required by the armed forces 5-year development plan.

The defense minister also said that all Egypt's armament needs for self-defense and for maintaining a balance of power in the area will be met on time. He added: This is in addition to the fact that our capacity for military industrialization will be maintained and will increase.

The Egyptian defense minister announced that the air force is at present studying the question of manufacturing certain types of helicopters and F-5 planes in Egypt.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES

NC011200 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Mar 80 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met at noon with the leadership of the General Federation of Trade Unions. This meeting comes within the framework of the meetings the president has decided to hold with representatives of federations and governorships in order to debate matters related to rebuilding, development, the rebuilding of the National Democratic Party [NDP], domestic affairs and the people's problems.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and NDP Secretary General Fikri Makram 'Ubayd; Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs Amal 'Uthman; Minister of Manpower Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad; [head of trade unions federation] 'Abd al-Latif Baltiyah; members of the Executive Council; and leaders of the trade unions.

Stresses Respect for Authorities

NC011938 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] President as-Sadat explained the external, internal and Arab situations to the trade union leaders today. The president referred to the nine principles of the referendum that was held after the signing of the peace treaty, with particular emphasis on the principle that calls for respect for the authorities. He also referred to the attempts by some agents and renegades to instigate the people not to respect the authorities.

TU FEDERATION REJECTS WFTU'S MISLEADING STATEMENTS

NC261536 Cairo MENA in English 1500 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 26, (MENA)--The general federation of Egypt's labourers trade unions cracked down today on the World Federation of Trade Unions of Czechoslovakia and accused it of being caught in the trap of lies and spite which are being aired by the bugles of the Rejectionist Front against the people of Egypt and Egyptian political leadership and asserted that Egypt's Arab and African belonging is one of destiny which no one could cast doubts on or weaken.

The federation asserted that while Egypt, proceeding for deepening the foundations of just peace in the Middle East, depends on a huge deposit of shouldering national responsibility as to the question of the liberation of the occupied Arab lands and the acknowledgement of the right of the people of Palestine to restoring their right and governing themselves.

This was included in a statement released today by the federation denouncing the misleading statements which the Czechoslovak federation issued recently.

The Egyptian federation added that allegations included in the statements of rejectionist countries and the Czechoslovak federation could not hide the accomplishments of the Egyptian peace policy from the world labourers. The federation referred to those accomplishment as restoring three-quarters of Sinai as well as Sinai oil fields and the mineral wealth areas and the strategic passes areas.

Delegation Invited to Beijing

NC261622 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 February--The All-China Federation of Trade Unions has expressed a desire to establish relations of cooperation with the Egyptian general labor federation in areas of common interest.

This came in a message from the Chinese federation that was received today by Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of manpower and vocational training and chairman of the Egyptian federation. The minister said that the message from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions included an open invitation to the Egyptian Federation to send a delegation to Beijing in April to discuss cooperation between both sides.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE, JERUSALEM

NC011339 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly resumed its meeting today under Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib.

The assembly began discussing an urgent motion submitted by opposition leader Engineer Ibrahim Shukri on the question of the Egyptian Ambassador's submission of his credentials to the Israeli head of state in Jerusalem. Engineer Ibrahim Shukri demanded that the assembly issue a statement affirming the Arab nature of Jerusalem.

Minister of state for People's Assembly affairs, Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir spoke, saying that the presentation of the Egyptian ambassador's credentials took place in the home of the Israeli head of state and that the government has insisted that Jerusalem is Arab and part of the West Bank.

The assembly decided to ask the foreign relations committee to issue a recommendation on this subject to be submitted at today's session.

Affirms Arab Character of Jerusalem

NC011946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 1 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--The Egyptian People's Assembly today issued a statement affirming the Arab nature of Jerusalem and saying that the presentation of credentials by the Egyptian ambassador to Israel in Jerusalem does not mean that Egypt agrees that the holy city is Israel's capital. The statement also affirms that the Palestinians in Jerusalem have all legitimate historic rights which must be respected.

The text of the statement reads: "After hearing the statements made on the occasion of the Egyptian ambassador's presentation of credentials in Jerusalem, which affirmed that this absolutely does not mean that Egypt approves of Jerusalem being the capital of Israel, the assembly considers Arab Jerusalem an indivisible part of the West Bank. It affirms that historic and legitimate Arab rights in the city must be respected, that Arab Jerusalem must be under Arab sovereignty and that its Palestinian inhabitants have the right to exercise all their legitimate national rights, since they are indivisible from the Palestinian people in the West Bank.

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"The assembly condemns all actions inconsistent with these rights and all attempts to change the landmarks of Jerusalem, as have all international organizations more than once.

"The assembly supports the government statement on this subject and supports the policy which the government is adopting under the leadership of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat regarding the Arab character of Jerusalem and protection of the rights of the Palestinian people."

AL-AHRAM LINKS EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS TO U.S. ARMS DEAL

LD031449 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Feb 80 p 7 LD

[Editorial: "Significant Indications of Normalization"]

[Text] The Egyptian and Israeli ambassadors today present their credentials in the beginning of a new stage which, by all standards, is a step on the path to comprehensive peace. The aim of the peace treaty was not simply to have an Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv and an Israeli ambassador in Cairo. Rather, the aim is to take further effective steps for the sake of peace which, as Egypt has already stressed, cannot be achieved without a solution to the Palestinian problem which is the central point of the current autonomy talks. These talks will continue today in The Hague with the participation of the three parties--Egypt, Israel and the United States.

If nothing the coincidence of the date of submitting the credentials of the two ambassadors with that of resuming the autonomy talks indicates the extent of the link between the stage of "normalization" and Palestinian autonomy which will secure for the Palestinians their right to be free of Israeli administration and to regain control over their own affairs, and which, eventually, will enable them to determine the future they want in accordance with what is known as the right to self-determination.

Also, it was no coincidence that the submission of credentials by the Egyptian and Israeli ambassadors came a few hours after the agreement between Egypt and the United States on the details of the program for supplying Egypt with U.S. sophisticated weapons.

One of the most important implications of this deal and of the fact that agreement was reached on it virtually the same day as the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel is taking place is that Egypt does not intend the stage of normalization to be one of military relaxation or slowness in preparing its forces and in equipping them with the latest equipment that will enable them to play their defensive role. Without strength Egypt cannot defend peace nor can peace resist its enemies who want to attack it.

All these indications clearly mean that as Egypt is beginning the stage of normalization it is not giving up its right to try to resolve the crux and essence of the conflict, which is the Palestinian problem.

Egypt is not abandoning the Palestinian people's rights nor its responsibility to strengthen and equip its forces with the latest equipment so that during the stage of peace it will be able to thwart all the dangers that the enemies of peace might pose.

AL-AKHBAR ON SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR GULF OIL CONFERENCE

LD041027 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Mar 80 p 6 LD

[Editorial: "The Soviets Demand Gulf Oil"]

[Excerpts] Moscow has appealed to the West European countries to join the Soviet Union in convening an extraordinary conference in order to discuss guarantees that would insure that the Soviets obtain their oil supplies from the Gulf area. The TASS news agency, which carried this proposal, gave the United States no place at this conference.

The proposal which TASS disseminated defines the goal the Soviets are aiming for behind their military moves in the Gulf area and their threat to intervene militarily--namely to obtain Arab oil. But why is Moscow putting such a proposal to the West European countries? Does Western Europe own this oil and does it have the right to dispose of it? By what right are the Soviets demanding a share of supplies of this oil?

This is in fact an exposed Soviet ploy. The Soviets have seen that all the West European governments have unanimously supported the United States in its defensive attitude against Soviet threats in the Gulf area, and therefore they want to tear these governments away from this support and to join them at a European conference from which the United States is excluded in order to share Gulf oil. But we believe that the West European governments are not so naive and gullible as to be taken in by the Soviet game.

What is strange indeed is that the Soviets should demand a share of supplies from the Gulf oil. By what right should they have such supplies and on what basis have they calculated this? The United States and the West European countries have interests in this oil, interests which have been established and defined under normal conditions and which are customary in dealings between countries. It was the oil companies of these countries that discovered the oil resources, prospected for them and spent vast sums of money implementing agreements concluded between them and the Arab countries in the area. Dealings between the two parties were on the basis of mutual benefit, as is customary in commercial dealings.

Therefore, this was not a matter of colonialist booty or a deal imposed by an exploitationist party. But the Soviet Union wants to impose a share for itself and to obtain oil supplies to meet its requirements. The Soviet Union has so decided and wants to impose its decision together with the West European governments. As for the Arabs, they have nothing to do with this and must comply with it.

The conference for which the Soviet Union is calling is similar to the colonialist conference which the colonialist European countries used to call in the 19th century in order to share the African Continent and divide its territories among them so that each would take its colonialist share without war and without dispute. It is with this colonialist logic that the Soviets want to share the oil of the Arab Gulf and Arab oil in general with the West European countries. This is the Soviet colonialist mentality and thinking, similar to that of bygone times. The Moscow proposal carried by TASS is a clear indication of this Soviet mentality. It is also evidence proving the real Soviet ambitions in the Arab oil; it proves that their aim is to reach this oil in any way; an aim which is no secret to the West European countries or the Arab countries.

The Soviets are saying that their oil resources have begun to dry up and that they will soon be in need of oil from abroad, thus confirming their need for oil. They are relying on Arab oil to make up this deficit because it is closer to them. But they must fully realize that colonialist domination will not enable them to reach this goal even if scores of agents collaborate with them.

JORDANIAN CROWN PRINCE HASAN ARRIVES ON VISIT

JN021516 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 March--Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal arrived here this afternoon on an official visit to Iraq that will last several days. Prince Hasan was accorded a large official reception in which he was met by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC members, ministers, a number of senior Iraqi officials and heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Baghdad.

Before coming to Baghdad, Prince Hasan visited Kuwait and Qatar.

Begins Talks

JN021851 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 March--The official Iraqi-Jordanian talks began here tonight. The Iraqi side was headed by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the Jordanian side by Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal. The Iraqi side included Planning Minister Dr Taha Ibrahim al-'Abdallah, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Mundhir 'Urayyim and other officials; and the Jordanian side included Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Affairs 'Ali as-Suhaymat, Transport Minister Falih at-Tawil, the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad and a number of Jordanian officials

Discussion dealt with the relations between the two fraternal countries and with means of developing them in the various fields, especially with regard to developing economic projects in fraternal Jordan.

Discusses Israeli Settlements

JN031836 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 March--Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan has given a lecture at Al-Bakr University for Military Studies. The lecture focused on the Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

In his lectures, the Jordanian crown prince called for swift joint Arab action to guarantee support for the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied territories to enable them to confront the Zionist occupation.

HUSAYN DISCUSSES MIDEAST PEACE PROSPECTS, SUPERPOWERS' ROLE

JN031818 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 80 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has emphasized that the Middle East area will continue to face a real threat unless a just and durable peace is realized with the participation of all parties concerned. This peace, his majesty added, should take into account the Palestinian peoples national aspirations in Palestine. He added that the absence of a just solution for the Palestinian peoples problem is bound to intensify instability in the area.

In a press interview with a number of senior French newsmen and representatives of French radio and television networks, broadcast over Radio Europe 1 in Paris last night, his majesty said that the Camp David accords did not lead to a real peace in the Middle East area. It is not possible for Jordan to join the Camp David march because the search for a just and durable peace should take place under UN auspices and with the participation of all parties concerned. It is important that the UN community should define clearly the nature of the just and all-round peace which must be realized in the area. Peace efforts should not be confined to the United States, Egypt and Israel removed from the UN framework and all parties concerned should participate in these efforts, his majesty added. His majesty added that Egypt has deviated from the Arab ranks although it has responsibilities toward the other Arab countries due to the joint Arab defense agreements. We are members of the Arab League and we consider ourselves as one nation. Any danger threatening an Arab state is considered a danger threatening us all.

His Majesty King Husayn reiterated that the United Nations, the superpowers and the whole international community must participate in the efforts to find a peace based on justice. This requires the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the return of Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty and the recognition of the ligitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their future freely.

The steps that have recently been taken are only bound to lead us toward the unknown, and Israel's expansionist policy and settlements building in the Arab territories are creating a fait accompli with regard to Israel's continued military occupation.

Asked about Europe's role in contributing to the achievement of a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East, his majesty said that Europe is directly concerned with the realization of peace in this part of the world due to its closeness to the area and because the fate of this area is linked with that of Europe. Hence, Europe is called upon to participate with the superpowers and the United Nations to reach a just and durable solution. We are in agreement that Security Council Resolution 242 should be implemented to guarantee the Palestinian peoples rights and to find an integrated framework for real and comprehensive peace efforts.

His majesty expressed the conviction that Europe will exert all its efforts for an initiative and exploit all diplomatic capabilities in order to find a just and all-round peace in the area. His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need for the Soviet Union to play a role in diplomatic efforts alongside the United States our friends in Europe, the UN community and all the international parties concerned with the realization of peace and justice. Asked about the U.S. stand toward the PLO, His Majesty King Husayn said that it is unfair for some people in the world to ask the PLO to recognize Israel and its rights when Israel is refusing to recognize the Palestinian peoples presence and their cause.

His majesty asked: What Israel are they asking us to recognize? Since 1967 Israel has been occupying Arab land in the West Bank, the Syrian Golan Heights and Egyptian land in Sinai. I believe it would be more fair for the international parties to adopt a specific stand toward Israel to force it to change its stubborn stand and to recognize the Palestinian peoples rights, because mutual recognition is the mainstay of a real and just peace in the Middle East. Asked about the possibility of an Arab initiative to solve the Middle East crisis, His Majesty King Husayn said: I personally made many contacts with the world's countries, including nonalined countries and others. I was hopeful to take an Arab initiative to define the mainstays of a real peace, because such an Arab initiative would have big weight on the international level. I was hopeful that this would take place during the last summit conference in Tunisia. But unfortunately, we did not reach this stand. The Arab countries are still holding contacts among themselves and they are in agreement on the peace basis. We are moving in all directions and are determined to confront all challenges and to participate with all Arab countries and all the world's peace-loving countries to achieve a real and just peace.

His majesty said that Israel has managed to divide the Arab world by diverting Egypt from the Arab arena. Israel is also working to create new realities in the occupied Arab territories. We will continue our endeavors to achieve the just and comprehensive peace which is aspired to by the area.

CABINET REVIEWS UN RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

JN021658 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Mar 80 JN

[Text] At its regular meeting today, the Cabinet examined the details of the UN Security Council resolution adopted yesterday on the subject of the Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied territory, the resolution that reaffirms the illegitimacy of such settlements and calls upon Israel to liquidate them.

The Cabinet also reviewed developments in the Jordanian complaint that led to the adoption of this resolution as well as the positions taken by the various countries on the developments of the issue in the Security Council.

Later, Prime Minister ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf said: This unanimous Security Council resolution definitely shows that the entire international community condemns Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territory and its successive efforts to change the material, cultural and demographic nature of this part of the Arab homeland through the building of settlements, the confiscation of lands and control of natural resources.

The prime minister added that the UN Security Council has fulfilled its responsibility in clearly stating its position. It now behooves the council to take the next step by adopting effective measures to stop this Israeli policy and to liquidate the settlements in order to open the way for complete withdrawal and the return of the territory to its rightful owners.

KHADDAM RECEIVES LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER

JN031248 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1100 today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Butrus arrived in Damascus at 1000 on a brief visit. He was met at Damascus International Airport by'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Meetings With Al-Asad

JN031701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1630 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. At 1530 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held a second meeting with Fu'ad Butrus.

Butrus Statement

JN031948 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Lebanese Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus left Damascus this evening following a 1-day visit to Syria, during which he met President Hafiz al-Asad and held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The talks dealt with the current situation in Lebanon and relations between the two fraternal countries. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and several Foreign Ministry officials.

In a predeparture statement to newsmen, Butrus said: I had a comprehensive round of talks with our Syrian brothers headed by President Hafiz al-Asad. The talks dealt with several subjects that concern us in the current circumstances and that also concern the area and the Arabs. He added: As a result of the consultations and the exchange of views, we believe there are many points on which we agree, whether on political topics which are under discussion in Lebanon or on topics that might involve the partial redeployment of the Arab Deterrent Forces in some areas. He added that this discussion will be followed by other talks both on the political and military levels because it is assumed that some military officers will come to Damascus to meet with their colleagues in fraternal Syria for coordination in matters dealing with their powers.

Asked about the possibility of holding a summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis, Minister Butrus said: In my statement before my departure for Damascus, I said the objective of my visit to Damascus was not to prepare for a summit between Presidents al-Asad and Sarkis. I repeat that when there is the need or interest in a summit, the two presidents will meet. Commenting on Minister Butrus' statement, Khaddam said: All of what Mr Butrus has said is true.

ALGERIA

RAISING OF ISRAELI FLAG IN CAIRO IS 'BLACKEST DAY'

LD030813 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Feb p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Let Us Strengthen the Revolution Against Surrender"]

[Excerpts] There is no doubt that yesterday went down in the annals of history as one of the blackest days for the Arabs. The Israeli flag was raised for the first time on Egypt's pure soil as a culmination of an earlier black day, 19 November 1977, when As-Sadat visited Israel and the usurped Jerusalem.

This is yet another round in the peace process that started at kilometer 101, another poisonous stab by the standard-bearers of this process in Cairo against the Arab will to resist and unanimous rejection of the alien Zionist ity.

At the same time this ill-omened event was taking place As-Sadat was preparing to submit new proposals within the framework of the so-called "autonomy talks" aimed at imposing a tripartite--Israeli-U.S.-As-Sadat--trusteeship on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza.

These two steps confirm As-Sadat's resolve, through the Camp David program and his active participation in the Zionist-U.S. alliance, to force the Arabs to surrender and to impose an Israeli status quo.

But this vicious conspiracy is far from succeeding in the face of the growing national revolutionary awakening in Egypt and in the Arab homeland as a whole.

The immediate answer of the Egyptian revolutionary and progressive forces to the raising of the Israeli flag in Cairo was the call to the popular forces to raise 1 million Palestinian flags on 26 February--the day As-Sadat is to receive the Zionist ambassador's credentials.

There is no doubt that the nationalist, revolutionary and progressive forces have a bigger role to play in this regard and a greater burden to shoulder. The task of curbing As-Sadat's regime and countering the effects and the dangers of the surrender policy remains, however, a national responsibility concerning the various Arab nationalist forces.

A joint Arab stand is alone capable of thwarting the subversive activities of the parties to "Camp David" which, unfortunately, still find in the Rabat regime a powerful ally actively helping to strike at the Arab front from within.

Let this ill-omened event, the raising of the Israeli flag on the Egyptian territory, be a new opportunity for deliberation and action.

Let the struggling forces in Egypt take this as an opportunity to work systematically among the masses in order to heighten their awareness, in preparation for their sweeping revolution against despotism and surrender.

BENDJEDID RECEIVES ENVOY FROM SENEGAL'S PRESIDENT

LD032025 Algiers APS in English 1640 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 3/3/80 (APS)--Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN Party secretary general, audienced, Monday morning, at the seat of the presidency of the republic, Mr Mohamed Ali Abdellah, Senegalese secretary of state for foreign affairs and President Leopold Sedar Senghor's special envoy. During the audience which took place in presence of the ambassador of Senegal to Algiers, Mr Mohamed Ali Abdellah handed over a message from President Senghor to the head of state.

LIBYA

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS LIBYA 3 MAR

LD032000 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] Tripoli--PDRY Foreign Minister Salim Salih Muhammad left Tripoli this afternoon at the end of his visit to Libya. He was seen off at the airport by the assistant secretary general for political affairs at the Foreign Secretariat, by the ambassadors of the PDRY, the YAR and others.

MAURITANIA

SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER BYSTROV ARRIVES 28 FEB

LD011412 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 1 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Nouakchott, March 1 (MAP)--Mr. Yuriy Bystrov, Soviet deputy minister of economy and fisheries, arrived here Thursday for a work visit, at the end of which he will sign an agreement protocol dealing with the setting up of a joint Mauritanian-Soviet fishing company.

For his part, Mr Antonio Carillo, Cuban vice minister of industry and fisheries, left here Thursday after a few days' visit to Mauritania.

Mr. Carillo stated that (?he) evoked with Mauritanian officials the possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in the field of fisheries and pointed out that a joint Mauritanian-Cuban fishing company could be soon set up.

ENVOY TAKES MESSAGE TO TUNISIAN PRESIDENT

LD291303 Tunis L'ACTION in French 24 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "Message from Ould Haydalla to Bourguiba"]

[Text] Colonel Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Hussein, minister attached to the presidency of the Mauritanian Islamic Republic, arrived in Tunis yesterday morning with a message from President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydalla to President Bourguiba.

SUDAN

VICE PRESIDENT BAKR RECEIVES IRAQI ENVOY, MESSAGE

JN011448 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 1 March--Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr received Shafiq Hammudi ad-Darraji, Iraqi ambassador in [word indistinct] and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, here today.

During his meeting with the vice president, the Iraqi envoy conveyed a verbal message to President Numayri from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message deals with the current Arab situation and Iraqi proposals on measures that should be adopted to face the dangers and challenges in the current stage.

VICE PRESIDENT VIEWS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NORMALIZATION

JN011002 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 1 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 1 March--Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr said Wednesday that normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel does not indicate the dawning of peace in the region.

In a speech he made at the opening sitting of the Al-Jazirah scheme workers conference, the largest agricultural scheme in Sudan, Mr. Bakr said the normalization had made the situation in the Arab region and the Middle East more tense.

"We are watching the superpowers movements in their struggle for spheres of influence. We are also watching the Soviet Union attempts for occupying new positions," he said.

TUNISIA

L'ACTION REPORTS ARREST OF LIBYAN-BACKED 'SABOTEUR'

LD031621 Tunis L'ACTION in French 26 Feb 80 pp 1, 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "The Arrest of a Dangerous Saboteur Entrusted by Al-Qadhdhafi With a Series of Criminal Deeds in Tunisia"]

[Text] It has been learned from an authoritative source that on 22 February the security forces arrested a dangerous saboteur, Bechir Ben Dhaou Sifi, who was entrusted by the Libyan regime with committing acts of sabotage against the French Embassy in Tunis, the party headquarters, the Arab League headquarters and the Tunisian radio-television service building.

This criminal was arrested at Dhibet (Medenine Governorate) having just infiltrated from Libyan territory with 4 kilos of explosives.

It was established that the Tripoli "Bureau of Arab Liaison" [BAL] instigated this sabotage operation, and that the director of the aforementioned bureau, one Hedi Ben Fadhel, personally supervised its preparation the day after the failure of the attack on Qafsah.

Among the Libyan officers in contact with Bechir Sifi was Mohammed Maiel, well-known to Tunisians since being tried for the attempted assassination of the prime minister.

Bechir Sifi received sums of money in Libyan currency from the BAL chief, as well as all he needed for the planned acts of sabotage, namely explosives wrapped in plastic bags, detonators and fuses. He was to place these explosives, with a range of 150 metres, in the sewer inlets in front of the buildings concerned.

Bechir Sifi, born at Tataouine in 1932, has been known as a smuggler for several years. The Libyan authorities had commissioned him the day after the Qafsah attack with an earlier mission on Tunisian territory to get them information on the positions of the Tunisian armed forces in the border region.

FOREIGN MINISTER FITOURI RECEIVES DPRK'S KIM HWAN

LD032234 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Fitouri this afternoon received in his office a delegation of the North Korean Workers Party, led by Kim Hwan, member of the Politburo and [word indistinct].

Following the meeting Mr Hwan said in a statement to TAP that his talks dealt with relations between Tunisia and North Korea, and stressed that these relations continue to develop in a positive manner for the benefit of both sides. He noted that the views of both countries are identical on to international issues and the establishment of a new world society. He expressed hope that Tunisia will continue its successful march under the leadership of its President Habib Bourguiba.

EDUCATION MINISTER MZALI'S NEW DUTIES NOTED

LD011444 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tunis--In accordance with a presidential order, Minister of National Education Mohamed Nzali has been entrusted with the task of coordinating government business at the office of the president and in this capacity he will submit on a weekly basis to the head of state the agenda of the council of ministers.

It is known that Premier Hedi Nouira has been in Paris for treatment since last Tuesday. Mohamed Nzali, who is 55, has occupied several ministerial posts since 1968 and is deputy chairman of the International Olympics Committee.

DRISS GUIGA NAMED INTERIOR MINISTER BY BOURGUIBA

LD011446 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tunis--President Bourguiba has issued an order appointing Driss Guiga as interior minister, succeeding Othman Kechrid, who has been given other duties. Guiga has occupied ministerial posts in the past, prior to his appointment in 1976 as Tunisia's ambassador in Bonn, a post he has held till now.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RECEIVES MOROCCAN ENVOY

LD291647 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 23 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[MAP report: "Morocco-Tunisian Talks"]

[Text] Tunis, 23 February--Tunisian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Taieb Sahabani met with his majesty's ambassador to Tunis Mohamed Tazi on Thursday afternoon.

BURG, TAMIR, RABIN COMMENT ON SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE

Burg: Rogers Plan Not Dead

TA032115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Minister Yosef Burg said this evening, on his return from the autonomy talks in The Hague, that the UN Security Council resolution on the settlements is not likely to improve the climate for furthering the talks. He said one shouldn't be surprised at the U.S. attitude, since the Americans never made contentions that had not been raised earlier in Israel. No American, Minister Burg stressed, can be more Zionistic than the Israelis themselves. He also said that Israel's friends in Europe had been shocked by the resolution that proves that the Rogers plan did not die but was merely kept in cold storage.

On the French President's statement regarding the Palestinians, he said it was an invitation to the Arabs from the territories to wait for the autonomy talks to fail.

Tamir: Dangerous Trend Appearing

TA031956 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Mar 80 TA

[Text] On the eve of the Cabinet meeting, our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram, asked Minister Tamir what was the cause of the U.S. vote on the settlement issue in the Security Council. [Begin videotape]

[Tamir] There were various considerations, mainly the U.S. assessment in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that the United States needs as much support as possible from the Arab Muslim countries. As for us, in my opinion, we must all make a firm stand against this new U.S. position and explain to and convince the United States--and we can do this--that God forbid the whole process in which we are all partners--the United States, Egypt, Israel--be harmed and more so, that Resolution 242 is harmed. As for us at home, there is no doubt that we must focus opposition on these serious phenomena on the principle issues: opposition to a Palestinian state, opposition to recognition of the PLO, adoption of the autonomy issue in a reasonable manner and not waste ammunition and create waves on issues with regard to which we could get greater understanding and support if we act in a balanced and considered manner.

[Question] Are you referring to settlements? Are you referring to the decision on Hebron or the settlement of Jews in Hebron?

[Answer] Among other things I am referring to issues which touch upon the issues that you have mentioned. For example, the manner of dealing [with the issues], the timing, the location of the settlements, and the manner in which we relate to the Hebron issue. I do not want to make more detailed remarks on the eve of the Cabinet discussions of these issues, but all of these internal clarifications should not, in the least, reduce our united opposition to the very dangerous trend that is appearing both in the Security Council resolution, the U.S. administration's support for it and the French-Kuwaiti declaration. [end videotape]

Yitzhaq Rabin Critical

TA031253 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Mar 80 TA

[Interview with Yitzhaq Rabin by Jerusalem Radio announcer Gabi Gazit; place not given--apparently live]

[Text] [Gazit] As is known, the Security Council has condemned Israel for establishing settlements in the territories and has also called for the dismantling of these settlements. This time, the United States also joined in the condemnation, something it has not usually done in regard to previous resolutions. Anyone who analyzes these matters has found that up to now the resolutions have spoken of illegal settlements. This time, the resolution says specifically that the settlements must be dismantled, and it includes those quarters in Jerusalem built after the Six-Day War. We are now speaking with Yitzhaq Rabin about this. Mr Rabin, how much more severe does this resolution about settlement in the territories appear to you than similar resolutions preceding it?

[Answer] When you just presented these matters, you described the extreme gravity of this resolution in comparison with the past resolutions. The fact that the United States supported such a resolution is a sort of ringing slap in the face for Israel, and we would do well to see matters as they really are.

[Question] Can you guess why President Carter, who is in an election year...is he, as several commentators are saying, scorning the Jewish vote for the sake of the support he is gaining from some of the ministers in the Government of Israel? [question as heard]

[Answer] I would not like to put the matter so simply, and perhaps I can even say cheaply. The problem is far more grave and serious. First, the Carter administration's policy, which is the interpretation of the framework peace agreement in the Middle East, which in turn is the foundation for the peace process, is plain and simple: Israel must return to the lines of 4 June 1967 and permit the establishment of an independent Palestinian entity in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. I believed that, because the framework permits Israel to fight for conditions completely different from these, the administration would behave more cautiously and would permit a process of negotiations in accordance with the timetable determined in the agreement. It seems to me that the United States is pressed for time. It is pressed, first and foremost, because of the events in Iran and Afghanistan and because of their interpretation by the United States. The United States is attempting to recruit the Islamic countries as a lever against the Soviet Union, and so there is a greater willingness to move toward them on the Palestinian issue. It is also taking advantage of errors here in Israel. Nevertheless, the problem is a grave one.

[Question] If you had to react to this resolution, especially the role of the United States, how would you do it?

[Answer] I would do it in three ways: First, I would recruit Israel's friends in the United States to act against the resolution, taking advantage of the uniqueness of this year--one of election for the U S. presidency. Second, I would react even by settlement, by settlement in areas on which there is full national consensus--such as the Jordan rift valley and the Gush 'Etzyon region--but not in areas over which there is a fierce argument both in the government and among the people of Israel. The third thing is to avoid at this stage any decision on the issues of the Jewish houses in Hebron.

[Question] Somebody is suggesting that we recall our ambassador in Washington.

[Answer] I do not think that games of anger are efficient. We have a difficult fight against the policy of the Carter administration and, in my view, it should be fought more wisely.

[Question] Today, even government ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister Ehrlich, are saying that perhaps we ought to examine our actions, perhaps we should change the settlement policy.

[Answer] In my opinion, there are grounds for examining the government policy. I do not think that this should be done at this moment. For the moment, it seems to me that the main fight is against the move the United States made in giving support to this disgraceful resolution in the Security Council. So, we must react against its essence, which contradicts the views of most Israelis. That is, against the settlements, against a united Jerusalem and against the return to the lines of 4 June 1967. [sentence as heard]

[Gazit] Mr Rabin, thank you very much.

WEIZMAN, 'ALI DISCUSS EARLY WITHDRAWAL, NEGEV AIRFIELDS

TA291608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 29 Feb 80 TA

[News conference in Tel Aviv given by Egyptian Minister of Defense General 'Ali and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman prior to General 'Ali's departure; in English--recorded]

[Text] Egypt's Minister of Defense Kamal Hasan 'Ali spent 5 days touring Israel as the guest of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. At the end of his visit, the two of them appeared at a joint news conference in Tel Aviv. 'Ali disclosed that he had asked 'Ezer Weizman to advance the IDF withdrawal from those parts of Sinai which have remained in Israel's possession, but he stressed that Weizman had not been prepared to discuss this. Our correspondent Meron Tzur brings us some of the remarks made by the two ministers. [Begin recording]

['Ali] Really, we had--I consider this visit to be as successful as anyone can hope. From the military point of view, we discussed the joint commission, missions in the future, and some remaining points in the past and we came to agreement concerning some of the details for crossing both sides.

[Tzur--translates above into Hebrew and continues] We came to agreement over several points common to both sides on the issues of the normalization, which had not been agreed upon up to now by the subcommittees. We also agreed that the subcommittees will conclude their work at the end of March and will prepare a final report for 8 April. We will then conclude the deliberations on the normalization at a meeting between him and myself.

['Ali] I think, if we achieve all this normalization process during such a short period, it is a success too.

[Tzur--translates above into Hebrew and continues] And here General 'Ali moved on to the main point: the advancing of the IDF withdrawal from Sinai.

['Ali] I raised a point, that the final withdrawal, with my friend 'Ezer--he was not ready to discuss it and I am speaking frankly with him--because of a simple thing, I can't understand it and I understood it from our friends the Americans, that the two airports, that's the final withdrawal, the two airfields were not, are not finished yet, of course.

[Tzur--translates above into Hebrew and continues] They are being constructed in accordance with the timetable and it is not expected that their construction will end before another 2 years. Let us wait and see that the airfields are built before that and the IDF withdrawal will be implemented before the 2 years are over, 'Ali said. And this is also pointed out in the peace treaty, that the withdrawal will take between 2-3 years, so that we are not standing there on the last day. [as heard] At any rate, 'Ali added, the withdrawal should begin a few days before the end of the 3 years. It cannot be carried out in 24 hours. You agree with this, 'Ali appealed to Weizman, and he agreed.

['Ali] You agree with this, I think?

[Weizman] Well, I agree that this is a very interesting question.

[Tzur continues in Hebrew] We are two countries, partners in the normalization, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said. There are no problems in realizing the normalization.

[Weizman] We are the two normalizers and we had no problems in that respect. Obviously, we have to take into account the laws of Egypt, and when there are certain things that we wish, for instance, transportation of motor transport to cross through, there are certain laws in Egypt that we have to study, understand and obey, but...

['Ali] Israelis, the same with us....

[Weizman] Yes. Yes, but we can have your cars come here, et cetera, but the Israelis will be able to drive to Egypt according to certain laws....

[Tzur translates above into Hebrew and continues]...and the Egyptians will be able to cross to Israel in accordance with our laws. These are the simple things. To the request by the Egyptian defense minister concerning the advancing of the IDF withdrawal from Sinai, Minister 'Ezer Weizman said:

[Weizman] And we'll abide by what we signed for and we, if everything, and I hope everything goes rightly, we'll be back on the international border April 1982 [as heard].

[Tzur--translates above into Hebrew and continues] The problem is the completion of the Negev airfields, which are being built rapidly. I pointed out that, apart from the interim line, we also have a problem with the settlements in the Rafah approaches, in the Sharm ash-Shaykh area, Weizman said, and these are two of the problems accompanying the border line. We will also stand there no later than April 1982, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman concluded. [end recording]

WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED ON AUTONOMY TALKS, NORMALIZATION, AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION

MENA Account

NC021000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 2 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 March--Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has reaffirmed that he rejects any decision that provides for the confiscation of occupied Arab territory. He expressed his hope that the beginning of the peace process with Egypt would push things in the direction of peace with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

In an interview published by AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Weizman says that the autonomy negotiations are facing problems because the Camp David [accords] are not being correctly interpreted, adding that what is important is that we should reach a definition about the current conditions, such as the military rule, that must be changed.

Weizman further says that we must agree that there is a 5-year interim period that must lead to something. This is where there is a disagreement. Most Arabs expect the interim period to lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, but we want it to lead to a situation different from the present one without resulting in Israel's total loss of its military presence.

Referring to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, Weizman says that Egypt was keen that the treaty should stipulate the withdrawal of all civilians [from Sinai]. We agreed to the removal of all settlements because we were convinced that this was Egyptian land enjoying Egyptian sovereignty. We tried to convince President as-Sadat to permit the settlers to live in Egypt, but he refused and said never.

Regarding the autonomy negotiations, Weizman says that they will be intensified, that he expects the United States to perform a role and that Egypt is determined to reach solutions before May.

In conclusion, Weizman stresses that it is necessary to reach an agreement with the people of Gaza and with Egypt on establishing autonomy in Gaza first. He says: It is better that we should achieve something, rather than nothing, in order to serve as a model for the others.

Television Interview

TA010828 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 29 Feb 80 TA

[Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman interviewed in studio by military correspondent 'Amiram Nir; date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Studio announcer] This week the decision by the Government of Israel to produce a modern Israeli fighter plane, the Lavi, which will be the air force's plane of the future for the late 1980's and for the 1990's, was published. Israel will invest billions of dollars over the next 8 years in developing the plane and in preparations for the local production of the engine, which the United States is being asked to supply. The building of the plane, which will be mainly an attack aircraft, does not supply all the air force's needs, and the next generation of fighters will still be U.S. made, the F-18. In this context, Egyptian Defense Minister General 'Ali today promised that after comprehensive peace is achieved in the Middle East, Egypt and Israel can produce a fighter plane which will be superior to anything in existence in the area. Our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir talked with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman about the considerations in choosing the Israeli plane of the future and about the Egyptian defense minister's visit to our fighrer plane industry.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, what is the significance of the decision about Israel's plane of the future, about the face of our air force up to the year 2000?

[Answer] The decision we made last week, and which was approved by the Government of Israel, is the continuation of a process the air force has been following for more than 25 years now.

One of the evaluations of situations: air warfare in the future; what weapons the enemy will have; what plane with arms we will need, or what planes, since the air force has several types of planes; what financial resources Israel will have at its disposal over the next 10,12,15 years; what sources of material and equipment are available; what technological ability do we have; and over what period of time do we want to introduce the item we are speaking about. We in the air force regard the F-15 and F-16 as aircraft that can stay at high altitudes for a long time. We are looking for the plane--we looked for the plane--that will replace the Skyhawk and the Kfir for other objectives, and this one we will design and build in Israel. There is another question: Is there still room for another plane? We are looking at the F-18, which will become operational with the U.S. Navy in another 2 or 3 years. The important decision is that we regard procurement as the solution to the air-to-air issue at this stage and the issue of replacing the [planes used at] lower altitudes [as being solved by] local production.

[Question] Why did you decide to manufacture an Israeli plane specifically for the attack role? Why not a simpler plane?

[Answer] The question, of course, is a good one. We cannot manufacture here...I do not think we can manufacture both types in Israel. In one way or another, we have some sort of relations with the United States, and we can obtain the high altitude aircraft in the United States. So we thought that if relations continue as they are--and I hope and believe that they will--we will be able to procure the air superiority aircraft in the United States and the other plane, which is no less sophisticated--in several aspects it is even more complex; it will have an air-to-air capability. But it will undoubtedly have limitations; it will certainly not be the F-18--we thought it would be better to produce that in Israel. Also, the quantity that the air force will require is larger; and so, for economic considerations as well, it is better to go ahead with that plane, since we will build it in greater numbers than the air superiority aircraft.

[Question] Mr Minister, is producing an advanced plane in Israel--perhaps more advanced than anything we have produced up to now--not, to a certain extent, a challenge for the air force, which does not compromise on quality and perhaps not on the delivery date either?

[Answer] I believe, after very serious and thorough studies, that our aircraft industry has the ability, in the fields of aerodynamics electronics and computers, to produce everything that can be produced in the whole world. In several areas, they can produce results more suitable to us. Also, today our air force is perhaps the most operationally active force in the world, and it can guide the aircraft industry on its requirements. For example the Kfir, which we have produced, is mainly based on the Mirage, but the experience gained from the improvements we made in the Kfir and the very fact of its production in Israel makes me believe that if this is a risk at all, it is so well calculated that we can achieve what we want.

[Question] In fact, the production of the Israeli plane in Israel depends on U.S. agreement to supply its engine. Will the Americans agree to do this?

[Answer] There is no doubt that we now have much greater dependence [on the United States] than we have ever had on another country. When we procured planes from France, we paid and we took.

We could take as much as we could pay for. But today, in my opinion, relations between the defense establishment are characterized by understanding, mutual decisions on policy and weapons and common interests in the area. The peace agreement with Egypt has, undoubtedly, made a contribution. It is my belief that our friends in the Pentagon and in the State Department will have a more attentive ear and understanding in the future of our needs in the air force and the whole defense establishment.

[Question] Including the engine for the plane of the future?

[Answer] I believe so.

[Question] Mr Weizman, what will be the economic significance of this financially enormous decision to produce the plane of the future?

[Answer] First, this is not the first enormous decision. We think that with the resources at the disposal of the defense establishment it will be possible to design the plane; it will be possible to manufacture it. Also, it will answer many issues of employment and development for the State of Israel. If we do not move in the direction of developing sophisticated systems, we will very quickly almost become a country without a sophisticated industry. I do not want to exaggerate, but we will nearly be hewers of wood and drawers of water.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister, our sophisticated industry, the aircraft industry, was also visited this week by the Egyptian Defense Minister General 'Ali. While on the other side, on the Egyptian side, it appears that there is no reciprocity in this part of the normalization. For example, the doctors, journalists and professional trade unions are not ready for any ties with their Israeli counterparts.

[Answer] That is the first time I have heard that: There are three doctors with Minister 'Ali, who came to visit with him.

[Question] Their trade unions are not prepared for this. At any rate, is this, in your opinion, the two-way, balanced normalization you expected?

[Answer] Look, there is no question of what I expected. What I think is that there is some sort of expectation that the Egyptians should go all the way, more than any other country. I think that after 30 years of hostility, what we have achieved so far is fine. We are still, and rightly so, in Sinai: a smaller part of Sinai. But, despite the fact that we agreed that Sinai is a sovereign part of Egypt, there are already embassies, there are already diplomatic relations, an ambassador in Tel Aviv, an ambassador in Cairo. So, it may be that here and there, in a country of 42 million people--where there are different strata, different intellects, different views of the world, differing Islamic streams, different relations with the Arab world--there are those who are opposed or who are not happy with the Egyptian Government's process. Here, too, there are people like that.

[Question] You mentioned that we are still in a part of the Sinai. Yesterday Minister 'Ali said that he intended--Egypt intended--to ask for an advancement of the withdrawal from the remainder of Sinai. Will you agree to such a request?

[Answer] No. No. We will return to the international border--if everything goes well; I hope it will--in April 1982 not only because of the fact that it is written into the agreement that we signed--which says nothing about stages--but also because we want to move the air force from the two airfields, and we have to move the inhabitants of the Rafah approaches, Sharm ash-Shaykh and Nevi'ot home in an orderly, rational manner. This is not a process that will take less than 2 years. I believe that the Egyptians understand this.

FRENCH PRO-ARAB STATEMENT REJECTED

TA031916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Israel regards the statement made by France favoring the right of self-determination for the Palestinians to be a further negative change in France's Middle East policy. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says that the joint statement on this subject released by France and Kuwait contradicts the Camp David accords and undermines peace because it includes the concept of self-determination, whose only meaning is a Palestinian state.

MIXED REACTION IN W. BANK TO U.S. SETTLEMENT VOTE

TA021219 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 2 Mar 80 TA

[Text] A new number for the archives--this is how the East Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS defines the UN Security Council resolution that condemns the Israeli settlements in the territories. There is satisfaction with the resolution in Judaea and Samaria but pessimism regarding the chance of implementing it. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports: [Begin recording]

[Gus] It is difficult to say that the UN Security Council resolution has caused great enthusiasm in the territories. Al-Birah Mayor Ibrahim Sulayman at-Tawil says: We are naturally pleased with the resolution, but dozens of such decisions have been adopted by the United Nations in the past and Israel has ignored all. This resolution was to be expected, people in the territories say. The U.S. vote was not surprising either, but practical results will not ensue. The AL-QUDS editorial, therefore, feels this decision will be buried in the archives. ASH-SHA'B attacks the United States for opposing a change in Resolution 242. However, some point out that the U.S. vote may indicate a change in its future policy. This is the opinion of Tulkarm Mayor Hilmi Hanun and Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. Both also point out that, to some extent, the U.S. vote is a result of U.S. Ambassador McHenry's tour of the Middle East and his talks with personalities in the territories. Ilyas Frayj said it is a mistake to ignore U.S. representatives coming to the Middle East. On the contrary, they should be met and the Palestinian issue explained to them.

[Frayj--in English] Yes, I declare that it is wrong not to speak to American representatives. On the contrary, we should speak to them, explain to them our case and try to convince them of our just rights.

[Gus] The U.S. vote in the United Nations will probably arouse an old argument in the territories: How much can the United States be relied on? Meetings with U.S. representatives are banned in the territories, and only three personalities, including Frayj, turned up for the meeting with Donald McHenry.

While Frayj and Hanun are encouraged by the U.S. vote in the United Nations and anticipate continued pressures on Israel, other circles in the territories point out that the UN vote is merely technical and that the United States in fact continues to support Israel. They say there is no connection between the UN resolution and actual U.S. policy. Or, as Hilmi Hanun put it, we want acts not decisions. [end recording]

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL DENIES AIRCRAFT CROSSED IRANIAN BORDER

LD031809 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan said in answer to a question by a BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent that, as is known, Radio Tehran has recently broadcast a news report citing a Western news agency, that Afghan aircraft and helicopters have entered the airspace of that country. The relevant Afghan authorities completely deny the validity of this report, and add: Afghan aircraft or helicopters have never entered Iranian airspace, nor is there any reason for them to embark on such an act. This report is a (?hostile) act of the mass media of imperialism, reaction, Zionism and the remnants of SAVAK who always try to darken the atmosphere of relations between the two fraternal countries of Afghanistan and Iran by spreading such fabricated and provocative news.

We shall never pay attention to such provocations and spreading of lies, and we assure our Iranian brothers that the borders of the two countries shall always remain borders of peace, friendship and Islamic fraternity.

Accuses Pakistan of Violations

LD031810 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] said in answer to a question from a BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent that, following the repeated interference and provocations of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, recently the military aircraft of that country have increased their violations of Afghan air space in the Konarha region. The Foreign Ministry strongly protests against such acts by the Pakistani authorities, and calls the serious attention of these authorities to the consequences of this attitude.

The Pakistani authorities ought not to embark on such acts, which will further intensify the situation in the region and exacerbate the danger of an armed conflict. If these authorities continue these hostile acts, they will be entirely responsible for the consequences.

The DRA Government shall no longer allow anyone to encroach on the country and people of Afghanistan and violate their rights.

SOLDIERS IN QANDAHAR, PAKTIA HOLD POLITICAL MEETINGS

GF031608 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 80 GF

[Summary] BAKHTAR reports that officers and soldiers met yesterday at the Qandahar Army Command to condemn "the traitorous actions committed by reactionary elements in Kabul recently." In a speech, the Qandahar Army commander explained the success of the new phase of the April Revolution under the leadership of the Democratic Party of Afghanistan [DPA]. The political commissar of the Qandahar Army then read the resolution adopted by the command's employees on strengthening the April Revolution's new phase.

The BAKHTAR correspondent in Jalalabad reports that at a ceremony held by the officers and soldiers of the 11th division in (Langahar), the division's political commander exposed the "traitorous actions of the April Revolution's enemies led by U.S. imperialism."

A report from Gardez in Paktia says that the officers and soldiers of the 22d regiment, the police, and the masses met at the regiment's headquarters yesterday and condemned "the savage and traitorous actions of U.S. imperialism and its agents."

The revolutionary workers and employees of a mining industry factory met yesterday "to denounce the traitorous actions of U.S. imperialism, Chinese chauvinism, the Pakistani military and the reactionaries of Egypt and Israel." The president of the Afghan Workers Federation talked about the gains of the April Revolution and called on the workers to form "resistance units to defend the homeland and the April Revolution." The workers adopted a resolution denouncing "the traitorous actions of Pakistani reactionaries and their American masters and the Chinese chauvinists."

FRONTIER AFFAIRS MINISTER VISITS PAKTIA

GF031605 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 80 GF

[Text] Frontier Affairs Minister Mohammad has conveyed the warm greetings of Babrak Karmal, the secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, Revolutionary Council chairman and prime minister, to the masses of Khowst District in Paktia Province.

The frontier affairs minister yesterday attended a reception hosted by the notables and toilers of Khowst District to strengthen the new phase of the April Revolution. The frontier affairs minister (?exposed) the traitorous and barbaric actions of world imperialism in alliance with Chinese chauvinism, Pakistani reactionary circles and their savage agents and their interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. He (?lauded) the unity of the noble masses and toilers in Khowst to alleviate the burdens of Afghanistan and protect the gains of the April Revolution.

One of Khowst's notables pledged on behalf of the district's masses to continue the struggle to alleviate the homeland's burdens.

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER SORAYYA LEAVES FOR CUBA

GF031615 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 80 GF

[Text] Sorayya, Revolutionary Council member and president of the Women's Democratic Organization of Afghanistan, has left for Cuba to take part in the third conference of Cuban Women which will be held in Havana from 5 to 8 March.

KABUL REPORTS PROCEEDINGS AT 1 MAR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION

LD032122 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] At the meeting of the Council of Ministers held from 1630 through 1930 on 1 March at Revolutionary Council headquarters under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], a number of proposals from ministries were considered and the following resolutions were adopted:

On the basis of the proposal by the Ministry of Justice: Appendix No. 1 of the law regulating the movement and activity of overland transportation vehicles was approved in four articles and instructions were issued that it should be submitted to the presidium of the Revolutionary Council for a final legal draft.

On the basis of a request by the Finance Ministry, the proposal of that ministry on the [word indistinct] land property was ratified. It was further decided that the previous control departments of the ministries and government offices should as before be annexed to the Finance Ministry along with the organization, budget and personnel.

The import of used trucks was authorized on the basis of a proposal by the Ministry of Commerce and instructions were issued that the documents on such imports should be prepared by an authoritative committee including representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Transport and Tourism and Commerce.

Based on a separate proposal of the Commerce Ministry, it was decided that 8 blocks of 10 apartments each should be built in Mazar-e Sharif, Pol-e Khomri and Herat for the residence of the relevant experts of the Foodstuffs Procurement Department out of the profits made by that department in 1978.

Based on a proposal of the Ministry of Mines and Industries instructions were issued for the purchase of 3.2 million bags required by the fertilizer and power plants at a cost of $1,823,000 from a foreign company. The Ministries of Finance, and Mines and Industries to take measures for the return of the stocks of the pension fund, the Pashtani Commercial Bank, the Mortgage and Construction Bank, the cement plant of Jabal Seraj and the bus company to the Bost joint-stock company which has been (?changed) to an enterprise out of the [word indistinct] of the state budget for 1980.

The organization of the Department of Cartography of the prime minister's office was approved and it was decided that this department should be renamed as the Directorate of Geology and Cartography.

New Government Appointments

LD032247 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] The Secretariat of the Council of Ministers has announced that, on basis of proposals by the relevant ministries, ratification of the Council of Ministers and the approval of Babrak Karmal, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, the following appointments have taken place:

At the Interior Ministry: Nasir (Shamladar) as the governor of Nangarhar; and [name indistinct] as the sub-governor of the major district of Shinwar.

At the Commerce Ministry: 'Abdol Salam, as the deputy minister of commerce; Engineer Mohammad 'Aziz, as the general director of foodstuffs and cooperative; (Gholam) Hasan Sarmand, as the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

At the Ministry of Public Health: Dr Sayyed (Amin Zarrah) as the first deputy minister; and Dr Nabi Kamiar, as the second deputy minister of public health.

At the Ministry of Agriculture and land reform: Dr 'Abdolghafar (Watanwal), as the deputy minister for land reform.

FOREIGN CONSPIRACIES IN RECENT UNREST 'COMPLETELY CRUSHED'

ID032318 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Noble countrymen: A few days ago a number of subversive elements, theives and murderers, with the instigation of American, English, Chinese and Pakistan spies and with arms made in the United States, China and Pakistan, embarked on a bloody tragedy in the city of Kabul. In the most cruel way they attacked the lives and property of people and set on fire houses and apartments. They embarked on the savage killing of women, old men and even innocent children. But soon the curtain was raised on these crimes (?and several other terrorist activities) of these enemies of the revolution. You observed that these spies were the true cause of all the arson, destruction, armed attacks, the murder of your men, women and innocent children in the city of Kabul. These sons of the [word indistinct], Lawrences, these historical inhuman spies now wish to repeat the crimes that British imperialism committed decades ago when they carried out their devastating aggression in our country. As our Muslim and free peoples gave a shattering reply to the aggressive British in numerous sacrifices, now the youths of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the armed forces and [word indistinct] and the patriotic youths of Afghanistan, in united formation, bravely and heroically foiled the bloody conspiracies of the U.S., British, Chinese and Pakistani spies, and completely crushed their criminal and conspiratorial forces.

KABUL REPORTS FLOOD DAMAGE IN QANDAHAR CITY

ID032050 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In Qandahar City 120 houses and (?80) shops have been completely destroyed because of floods due to the recent rainfall. Nearly (?60 percent) of building in Qandahar city have been affected by the floods. A report from Qandahar Province says that because of heavy rain which began at 1930 last night and continued until 0930 this morning, thousands of jeribs of land in the vicinity of Qandahar city have been destroyed and four mosques completely demolished. The source added that so far no reports of loss of life have been received.

The BAKHTAR correspondent added that, in accordance with instructions issued by the Qandahar provincial authority, distribution of relief aid by the Afghan Red Crescent and the public health authority has begun. The BAKHTAR correspondent also adds that troops of [word indistinct], police, municipal officials and other officers of Qandahar Province have helped in the rescue of people trapped by the floods.

AFP: PERMANENT SOVIET-BUILT GUARD POSTS ON ROUTES TO KABUL

BK031559 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Peshawar, northern Pakistan, 3 Mar (AFP)--The Soviet Army has installed permanent guard posts along several main roads leading to Kabul, a well-informed source said here today.

The posts have been placed on the roads leading to the provinces of Konarha in the east, Baghlan in the northeast, Paktia in the southeast and on the southern highway.

Entrances to the city are under guard also, and persons wishing to enter or leave are searched and questioned, the same source said. Those who want to leave Kabul must explain their decision. Several people have been arrested and imprisoned and others have been asked to return to their homes and to make no further attempt to leave the city.

Guards patrol the highways between stations, and all economically important buildings or installations are guarded by Soviet troops.

The capital was said to be calm, with stores open. The cries of "Allah is Great" no longer ring out from the rooftops, however, for a series of arrests has made the city's inhabitants reluctant to exhibit their hostility to President Babrak Karmal and the Soviet military presence.

AFP: SOVIET, AFGHAN TROOPS SUFFERING HEAVY LOSSES

BK049755 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 4 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 4 March (AFP)--The Afghan Army has suffered very heavy losses in an offensive started on Friday [29 February] with the aid of Soviet troops, tanks and aircraft in Konarha Province, eastern Afghanistan, PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL reported today.

Quoting rebel sources, the agency reported the astonishing figure of 1,800 Afghan and Soviet soldiers killed in two days. The mojahedins (Moslem rebels) were said to have repelled the advance of Afghan infantry and a large number of tanks. In the sectors of Asmar and Shingall, many Afghan soldiers were reportedly surrounded by the rebels.

No figures were given concerning rebel losses in the fighting but the agency said the Afghan-Soviet offensive was continuing with an attack on Ulswali that was still going on yesterday morning.

It was not possible to obtain independent confirmation of these reports and there was no news today of outbreaks of fighting reported by the rebel groups in other parts of Afghanistan.

ONLY 'DETAILS' OF REBEL ALLIANCE REMAIN TO BE FINALIZED

ID031349 Paris IE MONDE in French 2-3 Mar 80 p 2 ID

[Unattributed report: "New Soviet Airlift to Kabul"]

[Excerpt] A spokesman for the Jami'at Eslami movement announced in Peshawar, Pakistan, on 29 February that the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan, which is to unite six rebel organizations, is about to be officially formed. "Negotiations on this subject have made great progress. There are now only details to be resolved," he specified. The formation of this alliance was announced 1 month ago at the Muslim countries' conference in Islamabad.

INDIA

MRS GANDHI RELATES VIEWS OF AFGHAN PROBLEM TO PARIS DAILIES

BK031055 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Paris, 3 Mar (AFP)--Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi warned in an interview with the Paris right-wing daily IE FIGARO today that by supplying arms to General Mohammad Ziaul Haq's authoritarian regime in Pakistan the United States risked repeating the mistake it made in Iran.

The mistake, Mrs Gandhi said, consisted of "backing one man (...) as happened in the shah's case in Iran." The U.S. "Will find itself directly involved in the current Pakistani president's policy of military repression," she added.

Asked if India condemned Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan, Mrs Gandhi said: "We condemn all intervention, armed or otherwise, as well as all foreign interference. For example, China invaded Vietnam, and yet the West did not condemn that act."

She continued: "You cannot condemn some and not others. (...) Therefore, I am not getting involved in the current crisis in our area, so as not to put the blame on a single country when others are also at fault--the United States, for example, which is developing the (Indian Ocean) base of Diego Garcia."

In another interview published today in the socialist paper LE MATIN here, Mrs Gandhi indicated that the Afghan crisis was unlikely to be resolved through the mere withdrawal of Soviet forces. "The tendency in the West is to consider the problem to be fundamentally due to the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet troops," Mrs Gandhi said.

"It cannot be said that the West is helping to lower tensions. It has increased its military effort spectacularly, particularly the United States in the Indian Ocean. We do not want to see any foreign influence in that region.

"One has to understand what caused Soviet troops to move into Kabul, while at the same time not excusing or whitewashing. The Soviet Union, like any other country, cannot just look on passively when it sees its national interests threatened.

"Look at United States policy in its own sphere of influence--Latin America. Afghanistan is right on the Soviet Union's borders and the (Afghan) rebels were being armed by Pakistan. What alternative did the Soviets have?

"If the Soviets withdraw, there is a risk that the Kabul government will be overthrown by a regime hostile to them," Mrs Gandhi said.

GONSALVES, UK'S LORD CARRINGTON DISCUSS AFGHAN SOLUTION

BK031620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Britain has sought India's support for its plan for the neutralization of Afghanistan. The British foreign secretary is reported to have told Indian special envoy Eric Gonsalves that India has an important role to play in the move to resolve the Afghan crisis by securing the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Mr Gonsalves gave Lord Carrington India's assessment of the recent developments in the region along with an account of the Soviet foreign minister's talks in New Delhi last month.

Gonsalves Meets Newsmen

BK040356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Eric Gonsalves has said that India is trying to explore the views of various governments for resolving the Afghanistan crisis. He was speaking to newsmen in London after talks with British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington and senior officials in the Foreign Office. He said he was given clarifications on the British plan for neutralization of Afghanistan. He said that the British plan is positive but, has still to be tested. He said the Government of India will study it.

Answering a question, Gonsalves said the Soviet Union has categorically told India that it does not intend to move into Iran or Pakistan or to reach to warm water ports. It also said it saw no advantage in disrupting oil supplies from the Gulf. Mr Gonsalves said that it is in the fundamental interest of India to try to persuade the Soviet Union to withdraw and the United States not to enter into confrontation.

PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ALGERIA FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

BK031403 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Feb 80 BK

[Text] India and Algeria have signed a protocol for technical and scientific cooperation. The document was signed in New Delhi on 29 February by External Affairs Minister Mr Narasimha Rao and Algerian Foreign Minister Mr Mohamed Saddek Ben Yahia.

HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BEGINS VISIT 2 FEB

BK291255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Hungarian Foreign Minister Frigyes Puja arrived in New Delhi today on a 5-day visit to this country. He will hold talks with Indian leaders on international and bilateral matters. He was received at the Delhi airport by Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation J.B. Patnaik.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr Puja said his talks with the Indian leaders will cover the recent developments in Afghanistan and also in the European region. In reply to a question, he said there has been a sudden setback in the situation in Europe with the NATO countries deciding to deploy long-range missiles to gain military superiority over the Warsaw Pact countries.

Mr Puja will call on External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao this evening. Official talks will begin tomorrow.

Dinner Speeches

BK010358 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 80 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has expressed the hope that a durable solution based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence will be found to ease the existing atmosphere of tension in the region. He was speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of visiting Hungarian Foreign Minister Frigyes Puja in New Delhi last night. Mr Rao said we are confident about this because all countries in the region are members of the nonalined movement. The minister said both India and Hungary share a common commitment to world peace.

In his reply, Mr Puja said his country is well aware that India is doing its best for establishing peace and security in the region. He called for combined action by the Soviet Union, India, Afghanistan and the countries of the Indochina region to bring to an end the prevailing tension. Mr Puja praised India's contribution to the nonalined movement.

Referring to bilateral relations, the Hungarian foreign minister said there are great possibilities for further diversifying the economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Puja Calls on Leaders

BK040350 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Hungarian Foreign Minister Frigyes Puja called on President Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday. He also called on Finance Minister Venkataraman. Bilateral cooperation and international affairs are understood to have figured in the talks.

JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION FAILS TO AGREE ON GANGES FLOW

BK291557 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 29 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Feb (AFP)--India and Bangladesh have once again failed to reach an agreement on how to augment the flow of the Ganges in the lean months, informed sources said.

The 18th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission, which was in session here since Wednesday, adjorned today without completing the work it had on the agenda. The two delegations would now report about the position to their respective governments.

Bangladesh, these sources said, was insisting that Nepal should be made the third party to the talks as much of the water in the Ganges River system originates from Nepal.

To this, India's stand was that the problem of sharing of Ganges waters and of augmentation of flow is an issue between India and Bangladesh, to be sorted out between them alone. There can be no objection to getting any data from Nepal, but making that country a party to the talks does not arise.

Meanwhile, reports from Calcutta said that West Bengal Government reiterated its demand for altering the agreement on sharing of Ganges water at Farakka between India and Bangladesh so as to augment the supply of 40,000 cusecs to the state to save Calcutta and Haldia ports and for improvement of the navigability of the River Hooghly.

In a statement at the assembly, the states irrigation and waterways minister, Provash Roy, said this could be done by deleting the relevant portion of the 1977 agreement under which West Bengal was getting only 12,000 to 15,000 cusecs of the Ganges water.

The state government also requested the Government of Bangladesh to consider the proposal sympathetically.

Government Blames Bangladesh

BK031615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] India has strongly reacted to the statement of Bangldesh Power Minister Kazi Anwarul Haq that the recent meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission held in New Delhi failed because of what he called India's (?policy). A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Bangladesh minister's statement is neither correct nor fair.

He said the true meaning and significance of the interim Farakka accord of 1977 should not be distorted or else the future of this agreement may be jeopardised. The spokesman pointed out that the commission's meeting held in New Delhi last week discussed the agenda inconclusively and the meeting was adjourned with an understanding that the deliberations will be taken up again at the earliest.

Denying Mr Haq's statement that the Indian proposal for the Brahamaputra-Ganges link canal was not on the agenda, the spokesman said the consideration of the item was vetoed by Bangladesh by bringing in the question of the association of Nepal and also by pressing for a solution on its own terms.

ISI Report

BK040921 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0833 GMT 4 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpts] An official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement in New Delhi on March 3 in reply to a statement made by Kazi Anwarul Haq, the leader of the recently concluded India-Bangladesh talks:

India wants to abide by the Farakka agreement in letter and spirit but Bangladesh wants to enlarge the scope of the agreement on its own terms and has prevented the implementation of an agreement on this plea. India has agreed to cooperate with Bangladesh, approaching Nepal as and when necessary to facilitate a study of Bangladesh's proposal. But Bangladesh wants to make Nepal a member of the JRC which is not necessary in terms of the Farakka agreement reached between the two countries.

Due to the abnormally low flows in the Ganges the short-term agreement has been providing disastrous [as received] to the Calcutta port during this lean season. The Bhagirathi levels have gone down and there is hardly any current in the river. Navigation has stopped and shoals have appeared at a number of places. The Calcutta port traffic is being throttled with disastrous consequences. The full impact of this will be known only after the survey is carried out in June-July this year. India's scheme for augmentation of the Ganges flows is not only within the Ganges water agreement but is also within the well-accepted concept of optimum development of waters of the common rivers available to the two countries which has been agreed upon by the two countries in 1974 at the level of the two prime ministers.

The second item discussed was issues regarding sharing of the Teesta waters. Bangladesh has not cooperated in a study of water availability, water requirements and the manner in which these requirements can be met, although this was agreed upon between the two sides. They want to resort to ad hoc sharing without any scientific basis. Such an approach can only lead to numerous problems during the implementation and operation of the projects on either side.

Whether it is the issue of augmentation of the Ganges flows or sharing of the Teesta waters or indeed the question of waters of any of the common rivers the true meaning and significance of the interim Farakka accord must not be distorted or else the future of this agreement may be jeopardized.

SECURITY MEASURES ALONG BURMA BORDER TIGHTENED

BK011042 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Arunachal Pradesh Goverrment has tightened security measures along the India-Burma border to check the movement of hostile Nagas and Mizos in the Tirap District of the union territory. This was disclosed by speaker of the Arunachal Pradesh assembly (T. Lowang Rajkumar) in Gauhati.

CABINET EXPANDED ; STEPHEN APPOINTED COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

BK030747 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The union Council of Ministers has been expanded with the induction of one cabinet minister and four ministers of state. Mr C.M. Stephen has been sworn in as a cabinet minister in charge of communications.

The ministers of state are: C.P.N. Singh, defense; Charanjit Chanana, industry; Z.R. Ansari, commerce; and Sitaram Kesri, parliamentary affairs.

At a brief and simple ceremony at the Ashok Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan [presidential house], President Sanjiva Reddy administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new members. Besides the prime minister and her cabinet colleagues, others present at the ceremony included Vice President Hidayatullah and some members of parliament.

The All India Radio correspondent says that except for Mr Ansari, all others are new entrants to the Council of Ministers. Mr Stephen was leader of the Congress-I parliamentary party and leader of the opposition in the last Lok Sabha. He was recently returned to the Lok Sabha through a byelection from the Gulbarga constituency in Karnataka. With today's expansion the strength of the Council of Ministers has gone up to 27. Sixteen of them are cabinet ministers.

CPI WANTS LEFTIST FRONT AGAINST CONGRESS-I

BK031622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Communist Party of India is approaching the left parties and also the Lok Dal to fight what it calls the Congress-I's attempt to monopolize power in the coming assembly elections. This was stated by general secretary of the party C. Rajeshwar Rao. He was briefing newsmen in New Delhi on the deliberations of the party's central Executive Committee.

He said the party also intends to approach the non-Jan Sangh elements in the Janata Party in this regard. The Executive Committee expressed the view that the elections to the state assemblies should be held only after proper revision of electoral rolls.

AFP: 'INSIGNIFICANT' LEAK AT TARAPORE REACTOR CONFIRMED

BK020118 Hong Kong AFP in English 1655 GMT 1 Mar 80 BK

[Excerpt] New Delhi 1 Mar (AFP)--One of the two nuclear power reactors at Tarapore near Bombay suffered recently a mishap that could have resulted in a major nuclear disaster, according to PTI news agency. PTI, quoting informed sources here, said Tarapore escaped the disaster as the unit-one of the plant was fortunately not running when its primary coolant pipe started leaking a few days ago. If the pipe had leaked when the reactor was running, "a core meltdown would be a distinct possibility which would have made the Three-Mile Island (Harrisburg) accident in the United States a minor affair," in comparison, a report said.

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) which had hushed up the incident for over a week, today confirmed the leaks in the coolant pipe. The DAE, however, described the leaks as "insigificant."

The primary coolant pipe carries thousands of gallons of water circulating through the hot and highly radioactive core of the nuclear reactor. Leaks in the pipe during the reactor operation would have flooded the power plant with dangerously contaminated water.

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES PARTY LEADERS ON ASSAM

BK010933 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister has sought the cooperation of all political parties in allaying the fears of the people of Assam on the problem of foreign nationals. She was addressing a meeting of leaders of political parties in parliament and parties represented in the Assam assembly in New Delhi today.

Mrs Gandhi said there is no reason why a solution to the Assam problem should not be found if it is approached with goodwill. She pointed out that she had assured the student leaders and the home minister had also reiterated that the cultural identity of Assam would be maintained. She added, it would be a mistake to think that people can safeguard their culture by being isolated. Indian culture, she said, had flourished only by being open to other cultures. She said the Assam problem has to be dealt with sympathetically. But at the same time it should be insured that there is no sense of insecurity among the people there.

All India Radio's correspondent says today's meeting is being held at the instance of the prime minister herself,who had at the time of assuming power assured all political parties that a solution to the problem will be sought in cooperation with them. Those who attended the meeting today from the government side included Home Minister Gyani Zail Singh, Petroleum Minister P. C. Sethi, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao, Finance Minister Venkataraman and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Bhisma Narain Singh.

The prime minister pointed out that the Assam situation had taken a turn for the worse because of the picketing of the refinery. This is causing a loss of 30 million rupees every day. The total loss on this count alone is estimated at 1.6 billion rupees. Other losses amount to 3.2 billion rupees. The entire northeastern region has been crippled because of the agitation.

Mrs Gandhi felt the problem of foreign nationals has to be tackled but at the same time there had been instances where people who were not foreigners had been called so. It is necessary, she said, that no genuine Indian is harassed. Mrs Gandhi outlined the steps taken to maintain law and order and to rehabilitate the people affected by the agitation. These include, deployment of additional border security force personnel on the border with Bangladesh, tighten vigilance on the Meghalaya-Tripura sector of the Indo-Bangladesh border and introduction of identity cards with photographs for all Assam voters.

Leaders of all political parties from Assam who are attending the meeting welcomed the initiative taken by the prime minister. They urged the need to find a national solution to the problem because they felt that the people in Assam are fighting for a national cause and not for any regional interests. They also urged the need for speedy development of the state because they felt that backwardness was at the root of the problem.

Gandhi Will Meet Students

BK021620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has agreed to meet a delegation of the All Assam Student's Union. In a letter to the general secretary of the union, Mr (Phuken), the prime minister suggested that the meeting should take place in Delhi on Friday [17 March]. She referred to the joint appeal made yesterday by the leaders of all political parties in Parliament and the Assam State Legislative Assembly wherein they urged the students to call off their agitation and create condition for restoring normalcy. She expressed the hope that the students will respond to the appeal promptly and positively.

The prime minister's letter to the Student's Union was in response to the communication by them which was handed over to the advisor for the governor of Assam.

Students Continue Protest

BK031257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In Assam, normal work in the state and central government offices and undertakings including banks was disrupted today due to picketing in front of these offices by the members of the All Assam Student's Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad [People's Struggle's Council]. The 3-day picketing has been launched by these organizations jointly as part of their 6-month old agitation demanding deletion of names of foreigners from the voters list and their deportation from Assam. They are also demanding announcement of concrete measures by the government to deal with the problem.

RENEWED FLOW OF MIZO, NAGA INSURGENTS HEADING FOR CHINA

BK291605 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 29 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Feb (AFP)--A renewed flow of Naga and Mizo insurgents in the eastern Indian frontier region to China has been reported, for training in guerrilla warfare and arms.

T. Rajkumar, speaker (presiding officer) of the Legislative Assembly of Arunachal State in the region, said today that the insurgents from Nagaland and Mizoram had recently intensified their movement to sneak into Burma on their way to China through Tirap area in Arunachal.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted him as saying at a press conference at Gauhati, in the eastern region, that the authorities in his state had mounted greater security on the Arunachal-Burma border to prevent the exodus.

However, no arrest of the China-bound insurgents has been reported.

Curfew in Mizoram Relaxed

BK010947 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The 3-day long curfew on the Mizoram section of Aijal-Silchar highway has been relaxed. According to Aijal district magistrate, it will be in force from dusk to dawn only from today.

AFP: MADRAS DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GANDHI POLICY

BK021608 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 2 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 2 March (AFP)--Over 150 people were injured in Madras today during a violent demonstration against the recent federal government action dismissing the administration and dissolving legislative assemblies in nine constituent states, including Tamil Nadu of which Madras is the capital.

Reports said police fired buckshots and earlier used batons and teargas to break up the demonstrators who indulged in arson and stonethrowing. Among the injured were a few policemen.

Four police and public vehicles were set on fire.

The protest, part of a continuing mass campaign against the action of Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's government, was organised by the Tamil Party of All India Anna D.M.K., which controled the Tamil Nadu Government before being dismissed pending fresh elections.

500 Injured

BK030325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In Madras, about 500 persons were injured last evening when police resorted to lathi charge and used tear gas to disperse violent demonstrators from Mount Road. The demonstrators were taking part in a procession organized by the All India Anna-DMK [Anna faction of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party] and 13 other parties to protest against the dissolution of the Tamil Nadu assembly.

According to agency reports, a section of the demonstrators turned violent and started pelting stones causing damage to shops and other establishments. According to police sources some demonstrators attacked the (Annasali) and (Valeja) road police stations and set on fire some vehicles. Two hundred and ten persons have been rounded up by the police in connection with the incident.

At a meeting on the marina grounds, the leaders of the All India Anna-DMK and other allied political parties criticized the center's action in dissolving the nine state assemblies. Those who addressed the meeting included Mr M.G. Ramachandran of the All India Anna-DMK; Mr P. Ramamurthi of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr N. Kalyanasundaram of the CPI and Mr P. Ramachandran of the Janata Party. Later talking to PTI, Mr M.G. Ramachandran criticized the police action and said the demonstration was peaceful.

PAKISTAN

GOVERNMENT ISSUES INVITATIONS FOR ISLAMIC MINISTERS MEETING

BK040452 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Pakistan has sent formal invitations to all members of the Islamic Conference and to about 20 international and regional organizations and subagencies of the Islamic secretariat to attend the 11th conference of Islamic foreign ministers beginning in Islamabad on 16 April. A 70-point agenda has also been sent with these invitations. The agenda, beside important political problems faced by the Islamic countries, such as Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and issues on the Middle East, the Palestinians and Jerusalem, also includes religious, social, economic, legal and other issues.

The nonpolitical issues in the agenda include the expansion and propagation of Islam in Africa, setting up of an Islamic university in Niger, and reviewing the reports of the Islamic Commission on Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs and the World Commission of Islamic Jurists.

KARACHI REPORTS HAQ'S MEETING WITH POLITICAL LEADERS

BK031652 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 3 Mar 90 BK

[Text] Various leaders of defunct political parties met separately with President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday. They were with the president for some time.

More Meetings

BK031653 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Some more leaders of defunct political parties called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq separately in Rawalpindi today.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AGAIN REFUTES MOSCOW ALLEGATIONS

BK031640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Moscow radio has commented on earlier allegations made by it that a Pakistan aircraft [as heard] violated Indian airspace recently and on an open sabotage training center in Azad Kashmir. Pakistan has already refuted these allegations. It may be recalled that a Foreign Office spokesman categoritally denied the allegation that two Pakistan Air Force fighter planes had violated the line of control at Poonch on 22 February. The spokesman described the report as completely baseless and incorrect.

A Foreign Office spokesman described the report about an open sabotage training center as fictitious and said it was aimed at creating misunderstanding between Pakistan and India.

Lodges Formal Protest

BK040318 Karachi Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 4 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A Pakistan Embassy spokesman has said in Moscow that a protest was lodged with the Soviet Union yesterday over the violation of Pakistan's airspace 2 days ago by an aircraft bearing Soviet markings which intruded into Pakistan from Afghanistan.

SONODA SAYS JAPAN WILL INCREASE NONMILITARY AID TO COUNTRY

OW030155 Tokyo KYODO in English 0130 GMT 3 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Riyadh March 2 KYODO--Japan told Saudi Arabia Sunday that it plans to increase its non-military aid to Pakistan, another Islamic country adjacent to Afghanistan invaded by the Soviet Union.

The statement was conveyed to Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud Al-Faysal when Japanese special envoy Sunao Sonoda met him for about one and a half hours. Sonoda arrived here Saturday on the fifth leg of his current Middle East and Asian tour.

According to informed sources, Sa'ud told the former Japanese foreign minister that aid from Western countries for Pakistan were unsatisfactory at the time its adjacent neighbor has been invaded by the Soviet Union. The Pakistan situation bears significance to Saudi Arabia and Japan is hoped to take the lead in promoting Western cooperation for Pakistan, Sa'ud was quoted as saying.

Sonoda replied that Japan is unable to give any military aid to Pakistan but that it is considering seriously to increase other forms of aid to that country, the sources said.

The Saudi Arabian foreign minister also told Sonoda that there was a movement in the Soviet Union to take advantage of the military advance of South Yemen into North Yemen last year with the military support of Cuba, according to the sources. Saudi Arabia is thus ready to continue its support for North Yemen, Sa'ud was quoted as saying.

SRI LANKA

FOREIGN MINISTER HAMEED TO LEAD ASIAN GROUP AT UN MEETING

BK031313 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A top level Sri Lankan team, led by Foreign Minister Hameed, will lead the Asian group at a crucial UN meeting on international cooperation. The meeting will be held in New York from March 10. Several Asian countries have asked that Sri Lanka's representation should be at a high political level because its credibility in international circles has enabled it to act as a bridge between the North and South.

Hameed, who leaves for New York this week, will be joined by Ambassador (Lal Jayewardene) from [words indistinct] and Miss Sarala Fernado of our embassy in Washington.

Sri Lanka is currently vice chairman to the UN committee of the [words indistinct] set up to pave the way for a special session of the UN General Assembly in August-September this year.

CHARGES REPORTEDLY PREPARED AGAINST MRS BANDARANAIKE

BK291620 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 29 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpt] Colombo, 29 Feb (AFP)--A presidential commission appointed to inquire into alleged misdeeds of the previous government has served a charge sheet on Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, former prime minister and leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the party's newspaper said today.

Commission sources declined to confirm or deny the news item. Mrs Bandaranaike was not available for comment.

Appearance Before Commission

BK011143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Former Prime Minister Mrs Bandaranaike has been noticed to appear before the special presidential commission on the 25th of this month. She has been given time till the 19th to file answers to the charges in the notice, which among other matters, relate to certain land transactions.

The commission is inquiring into allegations of misuse of power and corruption during the period of office of the previous administration.